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That Friday free thing

Leeds Student

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Bod residents require medical attention after boozey night

By Rachel Hunter

Carnage UK, which boasts hosting the 'Number One Student Bar Crawl', has been sent a letter of complaint from the University following a series of incidents after their latest Leeds event.

Ambulances were called to Bodington Hall on the night of February 4 to deal with two students who required medical attention, one of whom was taken to hospital, West Yorkshire Ambulance Service confirmed. Another student reportedly stopped breathing twice after consuming alcohol. She was given CPR by a fellow student under the direction of the NHS Direct telephone service. Lastly, one Bodington resident found the next day that she had broken her leg sometime during the evening.

The University believes that all these students had taken part in the event, although a spokesman for Carnage UK said there was no way of knowing if they

had or not.

The night included drinking at six Leeds bars and concluded at Halo nightclub. Carnage organises nights four to five times each academic year and the February 4 night was its second in Leeds since September. 1,781 students from both Leeds University and the Met took part.

Revellers buy t-shirts online on the back of which are listed a number of tasks to complete during the evening, including the names of the bars on that night's crawl. The t-shirts also get wearers free entry into the night's designated 'super club'.

The letter, co-signed by Leeds University's Residential and Commercial Services Director Dennis Hopper and Leeds University Union's Welfare Officer Omar Khan, slammed Carnage.

They said, "We are writing to raise our concerns about the 'Carnage' event which was held in Leeds on 4 February.

"We are aware from your website that you wish to promote responsible

drinking...[But it] is certainly not our experience of the event, which we understand involved students drinking for 11 hours. We are aware of several serious incidents arising from the event including...ambulances being called to one of our residences to treat students who had attended.

"We are anxious to ensure that there is no repeat of the problems which arose from your recent event."

Leeds Student understands that no ambulances were called to any of the locations on the crawl and nor have there been police reports of incidents during the evening.

At the time of going to press, Carnage said they had not received the letter, but a spokesperson said, "Our event is fully stewarded by our staff who are NOT allowed to consume alcohol until their group reaches the end club venue, whereby our venue SIA security take over full control of event operation and venue operation. Our stewarding staff are twice the number stipulated within our industry

guidelines. We have 1 steward per 50 Carnage student customers, as opposed to the industry supervision standards, which are set at 1 for the first 200 people, followed by 1 per 100 customers thereafter.

"We conduct a full risk analysis of each event for each individual city. We consider student safety to be of paramount importance. Our company notifies the licensing authority of our event three to four weeks in advance of the day to ensure that beat patrol officers are forewarned of the event, and are able to police the event sufficiently. We also voluntarily contact the LCLA, the Leeds City Licensing Association. Both the licensing authority and the LCLA are sent copies of our print and promotional material, so they are able to view our communication to students."

The University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for students and staff, Professor Stephen Scott said, "We have taken our concerns about Carnage to the police and licensing authorities following very serious incidents involving our students at the last event in Leeds. Whilst we appreciate students do - and should - enjoy their time at university, their health and well-being is a priority. We are working with Leeds University Union and others to tackle any groups promoting irresponsible drinking and to help prevent any recurrence of problems seen this month. We've stopped promotion of cheap and irresponsible drinking on our campus by banning distribution of flyers and we will continue to support student safety campaigns."

Speaking on his experience of the event, Iain Conlon, a first year politics student and president of Bodington's Mackey House, said, "When I came back to Bodington there were three ambulances there. I don't think the event was very well organised, and the queues were enormous. I did enjoy it but some people just went a bit too far. The stewards were just students like us and just having a laugh. But I think with 1,000 students going round bars and being encouraged to drink lots, people are always going to drink too much."

Mandy Sutherland, a first year psychology student, said, "Everyone was drinking a lot but that's just what they do. I didn't think it was more mental than the event in November, or even an Otley Run. I didn't see anyone completely out of it - I'd definitely do it again."

Students warned after sex attacks

By Alex Doorey

After a series of sexual assaults in the city centre, students are to be reminded of the importance of personal safety.

Authorities say that following very simple guidelines can prevent assaults, and the University offers safety schemes for those out in the city at night, or simply on their own. Using such schemes can help to stop students becoming the victims of such attacks.

Union Women's Officer Sarah Wayman stressed that although students should not be frightened to go out at night, they should still be safety conscious. She said, "Don't walk home on your own. Walk home with a group of at least three people, and if you're leaving University, use the Nightbus. It leaves regularly from the Union steps."

"If you're coming home from town, get a registered cab. Amber cars will let you pay with your student card if you have no money on you so there's no need to walk home. Also, let people know where you are. Let your housemates or friends know where you're going and when you'll be back."

Sarah added that male students should take heed of the advice just as much as their female contemporaries. "These messages are directed to all students, and not just women. Men are equally at risk of being attacked."

Students are also advised to visit the West Yorkshire Police website for more information on personal safety.

<http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk>

- West Yorkshire Police have arrested a man in his 20s on suspicion of raping two women aged 22 and 23 in the Lovell Park area of the city.

The women were attacked as they walked home alone after a night out in Leeds. They were robbed and dragged to a grassed area where they were raped.



FIRST AID: Ambulances were called to Bodington Hall on the same evening as an organised pub crawl. It's not confirmed that the students took part in the event, but both Leeds University and LUU have complained to organisers, Carnage UK.

PHOTO: RACHEL HUNTER



Sketch

By Chris Tedd

By the time you read this, the votes will have been counted, the results will be in, and we will know, along with the occupiers of the Executive Committee positions for next year, who has been chosen to don the lilac keychain of power and lead this very newspaper towards a glorious future.

However last Monday, when the candidates, newspaper staff and the odd lost international student gathered in the LUU Infopoint (that massive empty space in the union more used to hosting breakdancing classes) for the campaign hustings, there was everything to play for.

There was a rumour that the break-

dancing and hustings would take place side-by-side, and that the latter would take the form of a freestyle rap battle while the b-boys and girls did their thing; sadly this failed to materialise, but the distant sound of dance music emanating from elsewhere in the union set the mood, as well as serving to drown out half of what the candidates said. James Gardiner had clearly prepared his rhymes (and over-enthusiastic hand-movements) in advance, promising 'integration', 'evaluation' and quite possibly 'emancipation' (in keeping with his Che Guevara-themed poster campaign). Criticisms of 'wack flow' were levelled at Steven Smith, possibly to be expected as he opted for lyrical com-

plexity over the quick soundbite. Phil Spooner, resident O.G. (whose posters feature a picture of him about to hit you over the head with a bottle, presumably unless you give him your wallet and/or vote) kept it simple, even spitting the odd (campaign rules violating) diss against his opponents. Some commented that Ky Capel lacked personality, surely making him ideal for the post, while Charlotte Griffiths added some much needed sugar, with a t-shirt helpfully pointing out the fact that, yes, she is a girl, and a campaign message not worrying its pretty little head with detailed specifics, opting for a raft of voter-pleasing platitudes instead.

Overall there was little to distinguish

the candidates, all promised a newspaper that was for the readers, as well as for the writers, and all promised to find solutions to the paper's mild financial difficulties without giving away any hint of what those solutions might be.

But it was unlikely to make much difference, given that the 20-odd people in attendance all either currently work for the paper or were running the campaigns, and anyway, as far as the general electorate is concerned it's less about policy as it is about who can come up with the most humourous pun on their name.

At least then we can look forward to some good headlines next year, which is all anyone ever reads in any case.

A shared swimming pool?

By Alex Doorey

Campaigners for a publicly-owned swimming pool in Leeds could put pressure on council bosses to secure joint facilities with the University.

Concern has been raised after a decision to knock down the International pool in the city centre, which would leave Leeds without any public swimming facilities.

The plans, if successful, could mean that Leeds will not get the private swimming pool it was promised earlier in the year, and will instead be involved in a project run with the council and shared with the public.

Construction was expected to commence in September, after university council approved plans for a new £9.7 million state-of-the-art facility, to include a 25m eight lane pool with a moveable floor up to a depth of 2m.

However, the Leeds International Pool Action Group believe that the University's site is too remote to be useful to city centre workers and residents, and that time-tabled

between student and public users would cause a strain. Campaigners are also doubtful that the plans will yield any success.

A spokesperson for the group said: "We are still convinced that the best solution for Leeds town, as well as gown, is a jointly-financed facility placed on council-owned land somewhere near the Civic Hall and run by the council or trust partner."

If original plans do go ahead, the new centre will enable a wide range of activities for staff and students including sub-aqua, water polo, canoe polo, as well as casual swimming. The first floor of the building will house the 200-station fitness suite which will overlook the new pool. In addition the facility will have a sauna and steam room, small cafe, spectator seats and changing facilities.

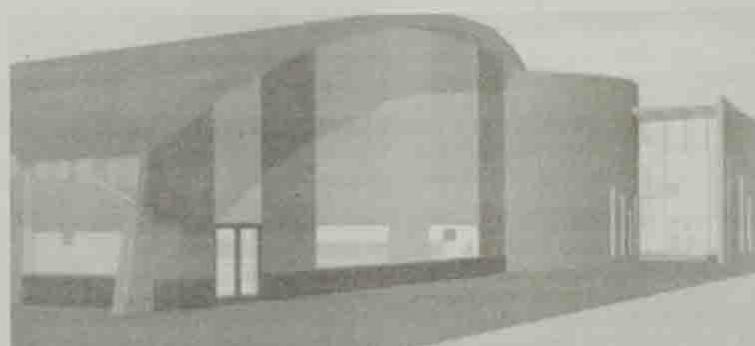
Director of Sport Stewart Ross, who has headed up the project, said: "Staff and students have been telling us for some years now that they'd like a swimming pool and much improved fitness facilities.

"It's a priority for us to provide first class facilities that will enhance the overall campus experience. This plan responds to the

University's desire to have its own swimming pool where serious athletes and recreational users alike can reach their full potential, so we can build a reputation for excellent sporting and recreational facilities."

Environmental geology student and keen swimmer Josh Freeman said that it would be

preferable for the uni to have its own pool. "It'd be much more convenient having it on site, and there'd be more opportunity to use it. Most other unis have their own pool, why not us?" he said.



PLANS FOR CHANGE: An artist's impression of the original plans for Leeds University's new pool facility

PHOTO: Leeds university

Green students tell Benn to ditch dirty development

By Chris Stevenson

Members of the Leeds branch of the campaign group People and Planet met with the Secretary of State for International Development, Hillary Benn, last Friday (February 9) in order to set out the aims the group's new campaign centred around climate control.

The campaign, entitled 'Ditch Dirty Development' which aims to cut the effect of climate change by lobbying for the UK to end its support of the fossil fuel industry, as well as promoting the use of renewable energy in the developing world. This will also help end poverty by giving millions the access to energy they did not possess, as well as helping to lead developing nations into a low carbon future.

People and Planet, who describe

themselves as "a group of UK students campaigning on world poverty, human rights and the environment", have stated that development aid, earmarked by the World Bank (working with the support of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) for poverty reduction, is being used to fund gas and oil extraction projects, these actions produce carbon emissions as well as taking away aid from those in poverty.

The demands of the 'Ditch Dirty Development' campaign were put in front of Mr Benn for the first time at the meeting and call for DFID to create a strategy which will phase out all support for fossil fuel extraction projects, massively increase support for new renewable energy sources and increase access to energy in the developing world by promoting low carbon forms of energy.

During the meeting Mr Benn listened carefully to the students concerns and



"DFID do need to be better as an organisation when monitoring the impact of our projects"

MP Hillary Benn

admitted that the department was still in the process of investigating climate

change. However Mr Benn did say that DFID: "Do need to be better as an organisation at monitoring the climate impact of projects we fund."

In response to the meeting, Steve Halpin the Communications Representative for the Leeds University branch of People and Planet said: "The group was really pleased with the level of engagement. He (Mr Benn) didn't try to fob us off, he engaged in a proper debate."

"We found common ground, but there is still a long way to go to get DFID to commit."

Steve went on to add: "Anyone who wants to support the campaign, come to the People and Planet meetings and get involved in helping to reduce climate change."

For more information, visit the People and Planet website at: www.luupeopleandplanet.co.uk

Long known for its progressive outlook, Middlebury is now at the forefront of the student climate change movement. "This is a learning community and when the students became the consultants, it turned the project on its head," said Nan Jenkins-Jay, Dean of Environmental Affairs who chaired the student-faculty carbon reduction committee.

Concepts of carbon offsetting and carbon neutrality have been growing in popularity on American college campuses, driven by new student activism. Middlebury has already been buying carbon offsets for its operations around campus.

At campuses across the country, students have been pressuring their colleges to use renewable energy and calling on congress to enact legislation that encourages reductions in carbon emissions.

"We don't just see this as environmental but about civil rights" said 19-year-old Catherine McEachern of Cornell University. "It's the calling of our generation."

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Facebook heats up Sabb elections

By Polly Wilde

Nominees for this year's Sabb elections have embraced new election rules by canvassing online this week.

The introduction of electronic campaigning in this year's elections has added a new dimension to the competition, and nominees are reaching out to more students than ever before.

Students not aware of the political action on campus are being made more aware through social network site Facebook.

Nominees are using Facebook groups to incorporate parts of their manifestos, update members and drum up support within the Leeds University network. Groups are open, meaning that any student can join and write on the group wall to pose questions to the candidate or to declare their support, with many nominees using the number of Facebook supporters as a gauge of their success.

Whether or not the number of members actually reflects the number of voters, however, is yet to be determined by the final count, but it has provoked argument that electronic campaigning has turned the elections into an online popularity contest.

Hind Hassan, a nominee for the post of Equality and Diversity Officer, believes that the popularity contest started long before the Facebook debate. Speaking to *Leeds Student*, she commented that Facebook had simply provided further proof that Sabb elections have always been based on the popularity of its candidates. Hind said: "The LUU elections have always been a popularity contest, but the use of Facebook is now revealing that."

Hind was not the only candidate who had such concerns. Neil Mackenzie, running for the position of Communications and Internal Affairs Officer, agreed that the elections were a popularity contest, but also noted that he views his group members simply as 'members', not as students who would

vote for him or offer any further support.

With the rise of the electronic campaign have come concerns from some that Facebook has made Union voting more exclusive.

Some have expressed concern that not all students at Leeds have access to the internet, potentially denying them access to the most up-to-date part of the campaign. Joanne Whitehead, a first year Law student, feels she has missed out on candidate manifestos and information as a result of being without internet access.

She noted that, although leafleting seemed an effective campaigning method, it would not reach some students. "There is little room on a leaflet to fully explain a nominee's aims and manifesto commitments, unlike on Facebook, where a nominee can wax lyrical for nearly as long as they like."

"Facebook also serves as a place where potential voters can directly contact nominees and question their rhetoric. Without it, a student can do nothing more than hope to bump into nominees outside the union if they want to find out more."

Leeds Student did not find any sign of cheating in Facebook campaign groups, with all nominees insisting that their supporters attach the disclaimer 'strap line' to their electronic messages. However, the disclaimer may not be enough to deter all forms of cheating.

Claire Francis, a Politics finalist and campaigner for one of the nominees said: "I think Facebook has made it easier; however, it has also made it easier to break the rules."

"The returning officer can only respond to direct complaints or queries; therefore, some 'grey areas' may go unnoticed. I do, however, have faith that all current candidates are respecting the system."

What is certain is that Facebook has provided a forum for students to directly question and debate with nominees and to make suggestions, whilst filling the gap for more casual and relaxed campaigning, and is more likely to bring in new voters who were previously bored by the campaign process.

ONLINE OR OUTSIDE?: Only the polls will reveal who voted and who just posted

PHOTO: Patrick Nixon

Rising stars in LUUMS concert

By Corrina Henderson

Two graduates will be hoping to provide an exciting performance later this month when they conduct and perform.

The concert, which will also include the Leeds University Union Music Society Choir, marks the debut appearances at Leeds Town Hall for the orchestras' conductor Tom Norris and piano concerto soloist Ben McGowan. Both Leeds University finalists plan to continue their professional musical training after graduating this summer, with this concert one of their greatest achievements to date.

A spokesperson for the event said: "As well as an excellent educational experience for members of the orchestra and choir, who have studied this famous and challenging music for several months, it also gives audience members the opportunity to hear popular works

that, due to the large number of performers needed, are only performed live very rarely."

Over 150 performers will take part in the event, with all of the proceeds going to the North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre. This local charity provides musical therapy for a variety of individuals in both urban and rural communities that suffer from physical and mental learning disabilities, autism and other mental health related problems. This is the latest charity to benefit from the annual Music Society concert, which has, in the past, supported other regional and national charities.

The performance repertoire includes The Planets Suite by Gustav Holst and Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto.

The concert takes place in Leeds Town Hall on Friday March 9 at 7.15pm. Tickets are available from £8 from the Town Hall box office on 0113 2243801. For more information, visit www.luums.co.uk.

Revving up for Revels comedy awards

By Alex Doorey

This week The Revels Student Comedy Awards comes to Leeds for the regional heat of its ongoing stand-up competition.

The Leeds event is one of just 12 heats being held at some of the UK's biggest Universities to find the next star of live comedy and, to encourage a more receptive audience for the budding comics, the organisers are offering a free drink to every ticket-holder on entry.

A spokesperson for the awards was excited about the Leeds heat, due to take place on Monday (February 19). "For one night only, a wealth of undiscovered comedic talent will take to the stage. They will battle it out on stage in a night of live comedy. This is a night not to be missed!"

The competition, organised by

Revels chocolate and Chortle, the UK's leading comedy guide, will be hosted by compere Dan Nightingale and



FUNNY MAN: Comedian Ray Peacock will headline the Leeds heat

PHOTO: Chortle Magazine

the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.

By staking a place in the final, students will have the chance to bag £2,500 prize-money and kick-start their comedy career on the live comedy circuit.

The Uni that pulls the biggest numbers to its heat will also win an exclusive gig from a famous top comic.

The lineup for the comedy night includes Mo Slim, Mark Smith and Dave Howarth from Leeds University, and other competitors representing Bradford, Manchester, East Anglia, York and Hull Universities. For more information on the event, and details of past winners, visit www.chortle.co.uk.

The heat is to be held in Pulse, in the Union, at 8pm on Monday February 19. Tickets are priced £4/£3.50 (students) and are available on the door. One free drink with every ticket purchased.

Library tops experience survey but accommodation greatest concern

By Virginia Newman

The results of the recent Student Experience Survey have shown that accommodation, despite being top priority, is ranked low among undergraduates.

Students rated accommodation as their top priority but gave it a mere five for performance. This was found in the first stages of analysis carried out on the results where different areas were rated in comparison with each other. Results also didn't tally in the Post Graduate Taught and Post Graduate Research groups of students. PGT students said that accommodation was third most

important but rated its performance as sixth whilst, similarly, PGR recorded it second most important but eighth in performance.

Students were asked to rank areas in terms of importance and then performance using a scale of one to nine, one being the highest.

Students gave the University a score of 4.09 out of 5 for satisfaction. The Survey Coordinator David Mihell said: "Of course, we all want it to be five, but the result is very pleasing." It is the first time that a survey of University performance has been carried out in this way, giving students the opportunity to tell organisers what they think on issues beyond the lecture hall and laboratory.

Organisers hope that bringing all the

departments together in one survey will reinforce what has already been found in individual service surveys and make a push for change and improvements. With around 6,000 responses across all years and courses (19% response rate), the survey was a success.

Accommodation seems, so far, to be the area of greatest concern. There is clearly a problem here but the University says that it is aware of this performance gap and that improving housing is a long and costly process. They want to help people understand that change takes time.

A spokesperson for the university defended student accommodation run by the University, stressing the quality of housing Leeds offers.

They said: "The Student Experience Survey has reinforced the importance of accommodation for students, and they have high expectations. We value student feedback and we will be looking at the survey's results in detail to plan further work.

"The University aims to provide students with a range of accommodation options. Our own accommodation includes wardens who are an important part of pastoral care; this is something you don't get in the private sector.

"Research by our accommodation office shows 60% of students put ensuite rooms top of their requirements and we're investing in our properties so all the students who want these facilities can have them. We are investing £60m in properties including Henry Price, Charles Morris and St Mark's flats to improve this important part of student life."

Low results were also seen in the categories of Sport and Physical Activities, Student Support, and also Welfare and Administrative Processes. Sport and Physical Activities were ranked an average of last in importance but beat this with an average of seventh in performance.

However, these low performance rankings are less reliable and representative as some students do not use sports or support facilities. They would therefore rank them of low importance in their student lives whereas they would be of greater importance to others. Organisers said that they got the greatest variation of results in these two categories.

The Student Counselling Service

was not concerned by their low rating. Nigel Humphries, Head of the University counselling service, said: "Only four to seven per cent of the population of students will use the counselling service in their time at University and, subsequently, it would be hard for it to be the number one item. As far as we can tell, they get a good service." According to Humphries, the opinions of people whom they actually see are more useful to the counselling team.

Library Resources had the best ratings, being ranked first in performance by all groups of students. Improvements can and will be made, however, as the results are analysed further and the library takes into consideration comments made in the 'further comments' boxes. David Mihell said: "A member of my staff is going through all the comments."

Organisers hope to show the importance of the students' opinion in change-making decisions. They reiterated the slogan of the survey campaign, "It's your Uni, have your say". David Mihell said: "We are working with all services to help them get the best out of the results. It won't be possible to make all changes, but we want people to understand why we are picking the things we are."

Some problems identified are already in the process of being improved. The Student Experience Survey will be complemented by the University-wide Programme Survey, which focuses on academic experiences and will run after Easter.

For further information, contact studentexperiencesurvey@leeds.ac.uk.

Government alumni fund goes national

By Alex Doorey

Tony Blair spoke this week on a new plan which will encourage universities to raise money through alumni donations, a scheme that Leeds has already been carrying out since the launch of its Alumni Annual Fund at the University's centenary in 2004.

Following the lead of American universities, who already raise much of their funding through alumni donations, the Labour government have pledged a £1 gift for every £2 donated to English universities in an attempt to raise a "culture of charitable giving" in higher education.

The proposals are seen as the next step in the government's higher education reforms, after the introduction of tuition fees and the attempt to get 50% of 18- to 30-year-olds into higher education by 2010. In the US, universities use endowment funds worth billions of pounds to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds pay fees.

Since Leeds launched its campaign, £510,000 in cash and future regular gifts has been raised to support students.

The Annual Fund forms part of the University's fundraising and is a way for all graduates to make donations at

whatever level is affordable to them. The amount of money raised in the early days of the fund shows that lots of alumni giving relatively modest amounts can make a real difference.

A spokesperson for the University said of the scheme: "Current students at Leeds are already benefiting from former students' generosity in a variety of ways."

"The University offers numerous scholarships, including sports, which trains students to work as volunteer coaches with local children and also to provide coaches for our sports teams, and hardship, for students whose study has been threatened by extraordinary financial difficulties."

The spokesperson added: "19 centenary scholars joined the University this session. They all have at least 3 As at A level and come from backgrounds where attending University might present financial challenges."

Diana Warwick, chief executive of Universities UK, the vice-chancellors' umbrella group, welcomed the national proposals.

She said: "This is a new and creative initiative which will provide a terrific boost to university finances. The endowment scheme will be a very welcome addition to the public funding universities rely on."

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Unhelpful views of Islam condemned

By Julian Rae

Leading academics in the field of Arabic and Islamic studies met last week in Edinburgh to discuss fears expressed by Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell that "narrow and unhelpful" interpretations of Islam were available to many young people.

Rammell said last year that some students were exposed to "wrong-headed" influences in the name of religion, in particular "teachings that either explicitly condone terrorism, or foster a climate of opinion which is at least sympathetic to terrorists' motivation."

Professor Yassir Suleiman, who convened the Edinburgh conference, described the "bewilderment" felt by himself and his colleagues at these fears. Professor Ian Netton, Head of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at Leeds University, was also present at the conference and commented earlier this week:

"I do not believe that students on the Leeds University campus are exposed to 'wrong-headed influences' in their studies."

Rammell's comments came after a study conducted by an academic at Brunel University revealed active extremist groups, including the British National Party, in twenty four universities across the country. While

this study has since come under sustained criticism.

Rammell has commissioned a report to be undertaken by Muslim scholar Dr. Ataullah Siddiqui, aimed at ensuring that courses are not restricted to narrow interpretations of Islam. The study will also examine the nature of spiritual advice available to students on campus, and its recommendations are expected to be revealed soon.

In anticipation of this, the scholars at the Edinburgh conference have published their own report defending current practices and warning that political pressures will encourage dangerous self-censorship.

The report argues that teaching Islamic Studies leads to a better understanding of Islam for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and could help undermine extremism as a result.

It goes on to contest Rammell's comments that the field is "narrow and unhelpful", pointing out that the Islamic Studies curriculum is "balanced, nuanced and designed with the long term intellectual interests of the student at heart."

The report also stated that lecturers delivered this curriculum with integrity, but conceded that they could not control how students used the knowledge that they received.

Undergrad applications increase by 10 per cent

By Alex Doorey

Application figures for UK universities is on the up, recent reports have shown.

Leeds is one of many universities to see an upturn in the number of students from home and abroad applying for undergraduate courses, in a rise of 10.8 per cent, a figure significantly higher than the majority of other unis.

A spokesperson for the university agreed that there had been an increase in Leeds' applications. "Leeds has seen a 10.8 per cent increase in applications for undergraduate courses from home and EU students this year and this includes increases in all faculties. The rise is significantly above the national average of 6.4 per cent, according to figures released by the University and Colleges Applications Service (UCAS) today.

The spokesperson went on to attribute this rise to the quality and variety of the uni's course options.

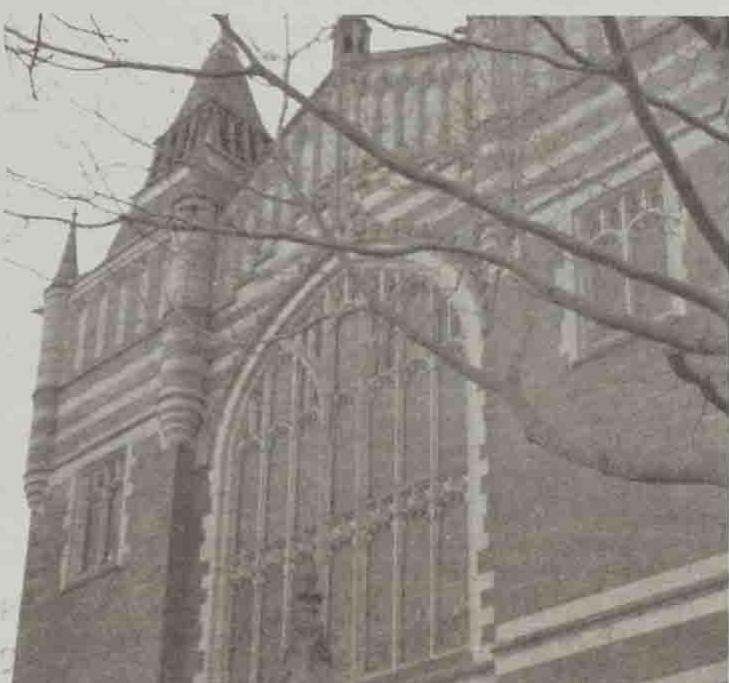
"This increase in applications to Leeds reflects the quality of courses at the University and our reputation for academic excellence. The drive to make sure Leeds is applicants' first choice will continue throughout the year."

Although national application

figures are generally on the up, it has been difficult to discern the type of students applying. Roger Kline, head of equality and employment rights at the University and College Union, (UCU) agreed with this sentiment,

but looked forward to a more detailed overview.

The most applied-to subjects at Leeds include Medicine, Law, English, Psychology, History, Geography and Dentistry.



FIRST CHOICE: Leeds battles to become the candidates' favourite

PHOTO: Patrick Nixon

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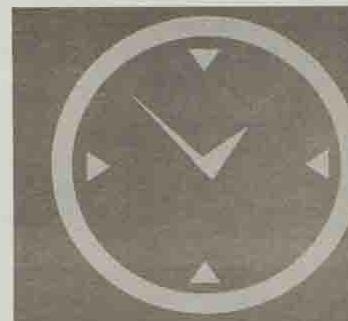
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News



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I'd go on Strictly Dance Fever for a laugh - I'd be lucky to make the first round

LS: Welcome to 300 seconds, how are you today?

EP-S: Very well thank-you. Always busy everyday, I'm a busybody around Leeds.

LS: So tell us about Dance Exposé...

EP-S: Dance Exposé hold auditions in September, looking for dancers of a certain standard.

LS: Not for those of us with two-left feet then?

EP-S: You don't have to be amazing but there is a certain level, you have to have

some previous experience. It's harder for girls - there are less trained male dancers. We do loads of styles, and we work on our show from September.

LS: How long have you been dancing for?

EP-S: Well I've been doing ballet since I was four, jazz since I was eight, and then when I went to drama school I started doing street dancing, at about 11. I've also been doing break-dancing for about a year.

LS: That must be very different...

EP-S: Break-dancing's tough because it's self-disciplined. I'm used to classes with routines and a teacher pushing you. With break-dancing you have to push yourself. If you want to make it in the dance world, you do have to push yourself hard.

LS: Do you see dancing as a future career?

EP-S: I'd like to have a couple of years messing around, trying to get a couple of dance jobs. You might see one of us on MTV one day! It's not well-paid and it's very competitive. I'd do it for a while but not forever.

LS: Tell us about the upcoming Dance Exposé show.

EP-S: It's called 'Make Room' - like when you're in a club or there's a dance-off and

300 Seconds

Dancing queen

By Rachel Hunter



everyone makes room for a dancer to have their space on the floor. The show has roughly about 21 dances, varying from contemporary and hip-hop to ballet and tap. It's a random mixture. Some of the dances have been put together by the dancers themselves.

LS: Have you done one of these shows before?

EP-S: This is my first Dance Exposé show - the people who did it last year said it's amazing, very tiring but also so rewarding. I'm really nervous because a lot of people have high expectations of the show, especially my friends. People should watch it as a show, as lots of dances rather than individuals. It's about the choreography and people working together as a team.

LS: You rehearse loads, it must be a good way of keeping in shape.

EP-S: I think in terms of rehearsals, they're fun, but they're also stressful because you want it to be good enough to put on stage. In terms of keeping in shape, if you give it your all every rehearsal then it's a good work-out, if you do it half-heartedly then it's not. It varies with each individual.

LS: People who dance tend to be very pas-

sionate about it, to the point of obsession... EP-S: You have to be, otherwise you won't be good. It's the same with anything, if you love it, you'll practise and you'll improve. You can tell that everyone in Dance Exposé is passionate about dancing.

LS: Would you ever go on 'Strictly Dance Fever'?

EP-S: Yeah, I really want to go on it. When I was in America this year I watched 'So You Think You Can Dance?' and it was phenomenal. They're obviously professionals, it was incredible. I'd go on Strictly Dance Fever for a laugh but I'd be lucky to get through the first round - they're amazing.

LS: I'd do it for the costumes alone.

EP-S: Yeah, people will like the costumes in the show.

LS: I'm hoping for lots of sequins.

EP-S: Well one of the dances features flesh-coloured bras and sequins - I'm not in that one thank goodness.

'Make Room' is running from 20-24 February.

Riley Smith Hall, 7.30pm
 Ticket are on sale all week.

The Wooldridge report

Talking women's issues, globalisation and Islam



By Michael Wooldridge

Only two things happened on campus this week. Anyone who tells you otherwise is wrong, and should probably go home and think about what they've done. No Union elections took place, no children or animals were set free into society, so stop it will you. Only a talk on 'Islam and Globalisation' and 'The Vagina Monologues' occurred. OK?

So, whilst these two topics might seem rather distant to each other, there is a familiar point to be drawn from both.

Tariq Ramadan talked of Globalisation, not as an issue that affects the Muslim world specifically, but more than that. He talked of the view of 'Alter-Globalisation' that sees Globalisation as a force that is here to stay, but is being resisted throughout the whole world due to the current state of affairs: Trans National Corporations being directly linked to the EU and US,

and how dangerous this is for our democracy... in very general terms. He made a point about the perceptions people have of Muslims resisting Globalisation and how this translates to - more often than not - the Muslim world being separated into 'moderates' and 'fundamentalists'.

Although limited, 'The Vagina Monologues' received criticism which stated that the issues wrapped up in the collection of monologues was treated with a level of disregard so great, that it diminished the power and weight of the piece, and that the audience could not engage with the 'real' issues at hand.

These examples point to a rather alarming similarity seen in the treatment of 'groups who face issues'.

No Union elections took place on campus this week, OK?

and one's attempts to 'understand' these groups. To think that the message of the recent production of 'The Vagina Monologues' was undercut due to it's sheer energy, fun and celebration, and that really, there should have been this sanctimonious, victimised message

displayed, says to me that there is this all encompassing unit of 'women' who collectively suffer - in exactly the same way - all of the problems suggested.

What it actually did, as far as I'm concerned, was to personalise it, make it applicable to all the audience, and explain that 'women's issues' apply to us, as people, but in very individual ways. By the same token, the reality of being a Muslim in both a Globalising world and the world in general cannot simply be separated into either a 'moderate' or a 'fundamentalist' camp. Furthermore, problems of a globalising world and the world as a whole are applicable to all of us, but on different levels, and in different contexts, whilst the problems remain the same.

The fact that one is not part of a group means that - as it stands at the moment - one can ignore it, discriminate against it or sympathise with it claiming that one thinks it great they can voice themselves, and how awful it must be.

But, as Tariq Ramadan said in his talk on Wednesday, we approach the other with preconceptions and media spawned information. No understanding is gained over the idea that we belong to groups, whose members - irrespective of groups - have an array of similarities. The most basic of these similarities being that we are all as intricate, complicated and individual as one another.

Uniting for a house party

By Alex Doorey

UNITE, the independent student housing agency, are to hold their own house party this week.

The free event, 'Crashed', is open to all Leeds University students. It is being held to advertise the new Unite Plaza facility in the city centre.

This will be one of several new developments for the company, who also run first year halls James Baillie in Hyde Park.

A spokesperson for the company promised an excellent night of music and free giveaways. "With the musical talent we'll be supplying, we doubt

they'll be able to stop dancing for a second" they said. The lineup for the evening includes Radio 1's Edith Bowman, will be dropping a mix of dancefloor new and old.

On a live tip, the new streamlined Big Brovaz will be showcasing new material alongside previous records from their album 'Nu Flow'. The night also boasts an appearance from ex Radio 1 and Dreem Team DJ Spoony, providing R&B and hip-hop.

Free Tickets to the event are available at The Plaza, UNITE's property in the centre of Leeds on 19 and 20 February.



FLASHY: The common room area in Unite's new Plaza building

PHOTO: UNITE

Campaigners with a heart of gold

By Alex Gilchrist

Members of the Leeds Catholic Society took to the streets on Valentine's Day to continue their Unearth Justice Campaign against unethical mining in third world countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Honduras.

As an associated society to the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, the Leeds Catholic Society asked its student members from Leeds University, Leeds Metropolitan and Trinity All Saints to convince members of the public to sign their Valentine's day cards and gold paper links that they would later give to the managers of the Leeds branches of Goldsmith's and Argos

in order to try to persuade them to engage with CAFOD policy makers. The decision to choose the February 14 was one taken by the Catholic Society in Leeds due to the high number of people buying gold gifts for their loved ones. Their aims are laid out as '12 Golden Rules', and their demands are that mining companies follow basic ethical standards that comply with fundamental human rights outlined in international conventions.

In April, the Council of Jewellery Suppliers will gather for their annual meeting, in which they will agree upon their policies for the following year. Margaret Siberry, CAFOD manager for the Leeds area, commented that "the notion is that the Council will adopt the 12 Golden Rules into the code of conduct for

the industry as a whole." H. Samuel have already signed up to these guidelines, due to pressure from the campaign, but although Goldsmith's and Argos have agreed nominally to the principles of the campaign, they want to be assured that this is a viable avenue for them to go down, and that the goals are achievable before they sign up. Dan Hale, a third year student at Leeds University, said that "Argos is more intransigent than the other jewellers and therefore needs to be targeted more for reform."

The campaign came about after evidence was uncovered that extractive industries caused heightened poverty and pollution to the communities in which they are active. There is no evidence that mining benefits local miners, and even if such evidence was found, there is no longevity in the extractive industry. Mines rarely stay active for more than 20 years, and following this period locals are left with a legacy of pollution, unemployment, displacement and a loss of agricultural land. For every gold ring mined, 18 tonnes of waste is produced, and dangerous chemicals such as cyanide, among others, which are used to extract such minerals are left to contaminate water supplies.

CAFOD is taking part in an international 'Say No To Dirty Gold' campaign to put an end to this poverty, injustice and marginalisation, and wants jewellers to put the needs of communities above those of the mining companies and themselves. By tackling the problem at the suppliers of these unethically mined minerals, gold itself being a £2 billion a year industry in the UK, they are hoping for the campaign to 'trickle down' to its source. With a quarter of all wars waged over



SIGNING UP: The chain meets with a local jeweller to ask for his support

PHOTO: Leeds Catholic Society
line, CAFOD are attempting to stop exploitation in other areas that benefit western commerce and that is detrimental to third world communities.

Claire Barrie, a third year art student at Leeds University and member of the Catholic Society, said "The aim is to make a change to these companies' policies by the annual meeting in April, but failing that, we will not stop until we succeed in gold being sourced ethically and humanely."

For further information visit the campaign website at: www.cafod.org.uk/unearthjustice or www.nodirtygold.org



VALENTINE: Two campaigners handing out Valentine's cards in the city centre

PHOTO: Leeds Catholic Society

US diplomat speaks on state of affairs

By Alex Doorey

US diplomat Leslie Tsou offered a refreshingly honest approach to the state of US affairs when she visited Leeds last week.

The diplomat, formerly involved in the restructure of a US embassy in Libya after many years of troubled relations, was invited to speak to the student body by newly formed society the International Debate Forum. She spoke frankly on US involvement and diplomatic affairs when she visited the University on Friday February 9.

She was sympathetic to students' frustrations about the ongoing situation in Iraq, and welcomed their interest in it. She said, "I understand students' frustration with the situation, and anger can be a good tool in politics, especially when it comes to Iraq. Moving troops in might work, but it might not. We're going to give it a try."

She added that the Democrats' plans to cut funding to troops in Iraq would be a hypocritical move, saying, "it would be hypocritical of congress to remove funds for the troops that are already out there, denying them the

tools they need. The Democrats need to have a look at the budget package, and not put troops in jeopardy."

When Leeds Student asked her about her time at university, she admitted she had not been a very politically active student. "I went to uni in Washington DC, so I suppose that helped, but I was never involved in student politics."

"I must mention that I am not a politician. I have never run for office and never intend to, but diplomacy and politics can never be separated. I was interested in how University life fit into national politics at the time."

Speaking about being a young woman in the male-dominated field of politics, she had positive advice for aspiring female politicians at university. She noted that there had never been a problem when she worked in Libya, a country that still has specific ideas on gender roles. "Don't worry [about being female]. I suppose you mentioned Libya because when I went there I was a young, single woman. Apart from not being able to speak Arabic when I went to Libya, there were no hindrances."

She also praised Libya, adding that it had received a reputation it did not deserve. "Past the 1993 Lockerbie

bombings, Libya has given no support to any terrorism" she said. "When Gadhafi handed over the Lockerbie suspects in 1999, it was the beginning

of quite a long transformation. However, he was always going to make this change."

The diplomat went on to give a talk

to a large number of University students, and faced tough questioning on all areas of US involvement.



DIPLOMACY: Tsou is just one of many prolific guest speakers invited by the International Debate Forum

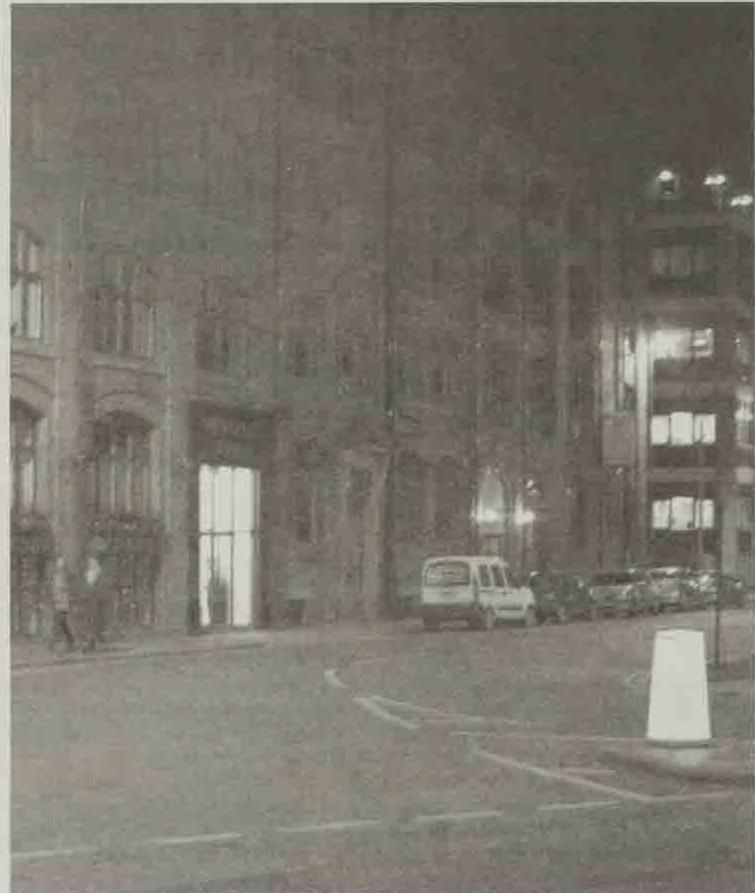
PHOTO: Jeremy Walker

Under the Radar

The life of a Prostitute

By Michael Wooldridge
& Stefan Page

"I do about three punters a night, at least one of those will be bad." Which, she tells us on further questioning, means they abuse her.



SOVEREIGN STREET, LEEDS: In between the 'Cockpit' and the bottom of Call Lane, Working girls spend their evenings looking for potential punters, trying to stay out of the arms of the police

CITY & HOLBECK, LEEDS: If you draw a line between the Corn Exchange and Leeds Train Station, the division separates the heaving clubs and shops from the residential, the offices and towering hotels. South of that line, amongst the hotels and offices, from about 11pm to the early morning, Water Lane, Sovereign Street, the bottom of Call Lane and all the roads that link the three, are the home of the Leeds inner city 'Red Light' District. Locals describe how the region 'moved from Spencer Place in Harehills' about four years ago and Leeds' prostitutes now work these sparse but well-lit streets backing onto a maze of alleyways just beyond the heart of the city.

After an hour and a half, we come across a woman having an argument with a man. We walk past – she follows quickly, first asking for a cigarette, then, through her young smile, she offers us business. "I'll do you both for forty quid," she promises, but it takes a good five minutes to persuade her that we're not after 'business'.

Lynda [not her real name] agrees to a drink and twenty pounds. But working girls aren't regularly allowed into bars in the surrounding area, so we settle for a seat on the steps of the Corn Exchange where Lynda lets us in on a glimpse of her life.

Her face is older than her twenty-four years would suggest and her dying teeth are a characteristic of her drug habits. When asked what she's on, she replies: "I'm on both."

"Both what?" we ask. Being on both heroin and crack cocaine has become such an everyday reality within the circles of working girls, that there could be no other conceivable combination of drugs – a combination which Lynda herself has been on for five years now. She assures us that she only smokes heroin due to the risks of HIV, but the scabs on the back of her hand suggest otherwise. Genesis – the care and social service centre for girls in Leeds – has helped Lynda with housing and got her onto a methadone programme within three days of her going there.

Her life story begins to unfold. She spent her childhood with an alcoholic

mother and heroin addicted, armed robber father. Stability was a distant prospect as she was shuffled from care home to care home until the age of 15. It was then she gave birth to her now nine-year-old daughter, and then again at 17 she had a baby boy. With critical health issues, the boy died aged two, and throughout bouts of depression, Lynda started to use the 'gear' that she now funds through prostitution. Questions about her son are greeted with a hunching of shoulders and she turns away telling us she didn't want to discuss him any further.

The dangers we expect to hear about are passed off with a blasé air. "15 or 16 times" was the vagueness with which she recalled the times she has been raped, and reminded us that the next day would always be a working day in order to maintain a regular income. She recalls a kidnapping at knifepoint and being forced to recite the alphabet backwards whilst being raped. The rapist was taken to court, and given a very light sentence as the victims – all drug addicts and sex workers – were considered unsuitable to stand as witnesses in court.

The supply, she tells us, is growing, but the demand isn't, which, even in the light of the Ipswich murders in December 2006, has lead to this "dog eat dog world [...] you've got no friends, only acquaintances". Furthermore, this situation – a buyer's market – has lead to the decrease in prices, and Lynda explains that she now charges twenty pounds for a "blowjob" and thirty for sex. She is pregnant at the moment, so is no longer doing sex.

This may be bad for business. The commercialisation of the industry, for it is just that, seems startling to the uninitiated. Lynda describes how she has to struggle to market herself so that she has enough regulars to sustain a healthy trade.

Transactions are brief and simple. Sex involves the least nudity possible: it is a matter of "just going round back and dropping pjs".

"I do about three punters a night, at least one of those will be bad." Which, she tells us on further questioning, means they abuse her.

Last week, she was punched in the face. Whilst we were talking to Lynda, the man we had seen her with arrives.

Lynda walks up to him, thumps him numerous times, and pushes him across the road.

"He's the dirtiest bastard alive. Just watches me from phone boxes and masturbates."

Her nine-year-old lives at home with Lynda and the girl's father and they receive support from Social Services. Lynda speaks of the financial strain of her daughter wanting 'Reebok' and 'Nike', her drug habit, and the fact that she supports her partner's heroin habit too. She tells us of her desire to be a good mother, but explains: "If I was a good mum, I'd be home looking after my daughter, and not selling myself."

When asked how she feels about her life, she says quickly, "I do cry – I'll admit, I'm ashamed of it, it's like selling my soul to the devil." She wants to be an interior designer: "Hopefully one day I will – I'm only 24."

Lynda was recently issued an ASBO that prevents her from walking on certain streets in the city. The police move prostitutes on or leave them overnight in cells and release them at 6 am. She suggested that they are disproportionately unfair to prostitutes in comparison to their treatment of punters. The Market Place – a drop-in centre and support service for under 26-year-olds – claim that the police are making the problem worse by issuing ASBOs and arresting the wrong parties. But from a police perspective, Leeds represents a symbol of success in tackling prostitution. The core of the working girls has decreased from 400 to 100 in recent years due to an increased presence of the police, vice squad and support. However, Lynda explains that taking her off the streets doesn't stop her needing money. She looks at prostitution as a self-inflicted crime. She believes that unlike stealing and other drug related crimes, prostitution only involves the punters and the girls. Prostitution is not an isolated issue, or a symptom of a problem that can be stamped out with a new initiative.

After a little shy of a 45 minutes, our encounter comes to an end and Lynda returns to her punters. Her story is by no means unique; parts of it play out time and again each evening, with countless girls and in numerous cities. We'd met with her so we could tell a good story. We paid her just £30.

Also in the news

PSG from Leeds on Al-Jazeera

Members of the Palestinian Solidarity Group [PSG] from Leeds University are featured in a documentary on Palestine, made by Qatar-based media company Al-Jazeera.

The documentary which is titled - through translation - "Undercover" was shown at 9.15pm on Thursday.

The clip in the documentary was taken on a mobile phone by an attendant at the 'Anti-Zionism is not Anti-Semitism' talk that took place last term on Leeds University campus, to which Al-Jazeera was denied access. Both J-Soc and PSG members were interviewed by the media company.

Journalist still imprisoned in America

Josh Wolf became the longest imprisoned journalist in American history on February 6 for ignoring a subpoena that demanded he hand in video footage of anti G-8 activists.

Wolf was imprisoned on August 1 2006 after withholding information and refusing to testify at all. He was let out on bail in September and was forced to return to jail 22 days later pending a 9th Circuit Court Appeal. He has served a sentence of 179 days until present. There is no suggestion that he will be released any time soon.

This has been an example of another journalist in the US being forced to submit sources. <http://freejosh.pbwiki.com>

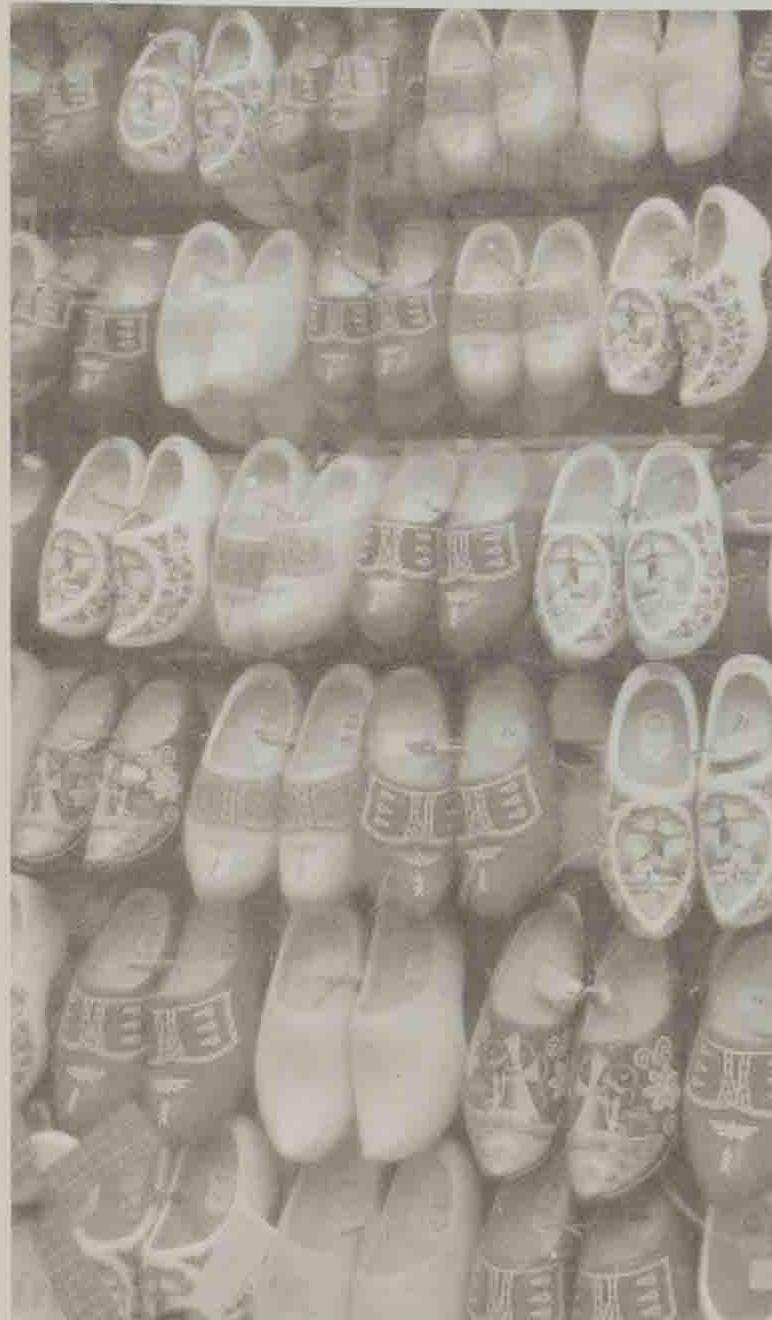
Britains oldest woman dies in Yorkshire

Upton, West Yorkshire: The oldest woman in Britain has died at the ripe age of 111. Janet Howse, 61, attributed her mother's astounding longevity to a life of "clean living" and her daily meal of bread and dripping with salt. Mrs Mason, from Upton, died in peacefully in her sleep on Friday February 9. The longest unambiguously documented lifespan is that of Jeanne Calment of France (1875–1997), who was aged 122 years and 164 days at the time of her death. Jeanne Calment met Vincent Van Gogh when aged 14. The population and lifespans of the world's oldest people are continually increasing due to improvements in healthcare and lifestyle.

Yorkshire Fishing competition

A day with the Tiger Woods of the angling world is what awaits the winners of West Yorkshire Police's 14th annual fishing competition. Bob Nudd, the four-times fishing World Champion and England Squad World Champion has cast his support to this year's event. Budding anglers looking for the chance to fish alongside their idol are being called upon to get their applications in early. The event takes place on the Calder/Hebble Canal, Horbury, Wakefield on August 4 2007. Those who want to be sent an application must contact Anne Shaw at West Yorkshire Police Community Safety on (01924) 292271.

extra



Hitchers' diary

LS extra correspondents Vivien King Macdonald and Dan Ashton hitch-hiked to Amsterdam for charity. This is the memoir of their European journey.

Leeds RAG Amsterdam Hitch '07 - the odyssey

Viv

Wednesday 10.49 O. Fucking. Fuck. Or, at least, that's what I want to say... I'm in the RAG office the day before departing for Amsterdam, and have just noticed that my passport's expired. Last June. How am I going to get out of this one? Can I get over the border without anyone noticing? No-one needs to know, right? Waarg! Instead of uttering a string of expletives (and thus giving away my new trip-jeopardising secret) I say 'la di dah, um, what's the date today?' to the helpful RAG lady at the desk. 'The 24th' she replies. That's January 24, 2007, just to clarify. Definitely not anytime before June 22, 2006. I am verily screwed.

10.53 I make some excuse and find an empty room on the same corridor. After a moment's

I'm in the RAG office the day before departing for Amsterdam, and have just noticed that my passport's expired. Last June. How am I going to get out of this one?

despairing I ring the passport office. 'Hello; National Passport Office. Can I take your name before we proceed?' Balls. If they have my name they'll have my soul. It'll give me away. They'll put me on some sort of list and, when I try to whisk through passport control unnoticed, the police will be waiting with dogs and CS spray and machine guns. 'Um, sorry; you're breaking up; I can't hear you'. I hang up the phone. Now, what in the name of God am I going to do? I ring my mate Philly who's a law student and general font of all knowledge. She tells me I might be able to sneak INTO Holland but not necessarily out of it. And I might be thrown into an immigration centre...on suspicion of drug smuggling on a fake passport?! Well, that helps me decide a little bit more easily: I'm going to have to get a new passport from the nearest fast-track office in Liverpool. Which, conveniently, is

12 Prostitute support

LS extra visits a Leeds sex worker support centre to find out how the city's prostitutes get help when they need it.

15 Chinese religion

Are the Chinese deserting Communism for religion? Christine Cooper investigates.

Extra Hitch

► about 15 minutes from my hitching partner's hometown. Sweet. But this is going to be a long day...

Dan

13.08 We manage to make the one o'clock train to Liverpool. After a swift journey of an hour and three quarters, we arrive at Lime Street and flag down one of the local hackneys. The driver, an archetypal scouser, no doubt with a story or two in his back pocket, takes us to the passport office (which turns out to be less than a 10 minute walk away). We arrive there at half three. I stand and wait as V approaches the desk. Paranoid thoughts stream through my head - "you've got no chance, darling"; "it'll take at least a week, love"; "we only give passports out to straights". Fortunately enough (not so fortunate for V who is forced to pay the princely sum of £108), the passport will be ready tomorrow morning. Thank twat for that.

14.46 This is V's first time in Liverpool. I decide to show her the cultural hotspots of Europe's Capital of Culture - otherwise known as the bars. Matthew Street is famous for its musical heritage, home to The Cavern Club and various pubs dedicated to The Beatles. But V has got absolutely wank taste in music and slates The Beatles incessantly until I'm ready to cry blasphemy. Hence, we bypass what is probably one of the most famous streets in the world and head on to a snazzy bar, The Jacaranda, for a swift four or five.

Thursday 10.18 We head back to Liverpool the next morning after staying the night at my family abode in the Wirral. The passport is acquired (V looks like a criminal in the photo)...SUCCESS! All we need to do now is get to Leeds, then Hull, and then Amsterdam. What could possibly go wrong from hereon in? On the train back to Leeds, we start to relax. Mistake. The twatting ticket officer claims we have the wrong tickets and I end up paying an extra sodding tenner. Furthermore, we have to sign in to the RAG office before two o'clock and the train is running late. Twat twat and double twat. After phoning the RAG office to make sure they won't forget about us, we finally arrive in Leeds at 13.45, jump in a taxi and arrive at the RAG cave with only minutes to spare. Phew.

V

13.56 We get to the union, sign in at the RAG office with a triumphant flourish and go our separate ways - Dan home to pack his straighteners, me to the Union Oxfam to buy some much-needed insulatory accessories. I jet home as well to pack and meet my housemate Carley who has willingly/foolishly agreed to give us a lift to Hull in her clapped-out Fiesta. OK, OK, we're meant to hitch all the way, but the sodding passport fiasco has scuppered those plans. We've got to be there by 17.30. That gives us plenty of time, non? Dan arrives and we set off; soon, we're powering down the motorway and, after about an hour, we're trying to figure out which bits of civilisation on the horizon might be our destination. Then,

however, we start noticing the signs pointing to Manchester? And Liverpool? Hang on a minute. This can't be right. We've just COME from Liverpool. And Liverpool is on the LEFT HAND SIDE of England. And Hull was on the RIGHT last time I checked. Utter, utter balls. It appears none of us has noticed we've been driving for an hour in the wrong direction up the M62. An ENTIRE HOUR. Ace. After a swift U-turn and a few mildly panicked telephone 'chats' to the group leaders, who are already in godforsaken Amsterdam, we speed the opposite way back through Leeds and hopefully in the right blimmin' direction.

17.28 At last, we arrive at the port and, somehow, nearly manage to drive straight on to the ship. Severe error! I jump out and ask someone wearing important-looking epaulettes whether we're actually in the right place. Yes.

Fortunately, we have managed to not fuck this bit up entirely. There are now approximately four minutes and 23 seconds left before we're supposed to be on the boat so we leg it round the port for a bit, and end up having to wait in the queue like the plebs we really are, willing everyone to hurry the fuck uuuuuup for the love of God.

Clutching my shiny new passport (whose photo makes me look like a convict, and will for the next 10 years until it bloody well expires again), we go through passport control and make it through without any strip searches whatsoever. Success! We are on our way. Now all I need to do is survive 12 hours on a boat in a cabin with three people notoriously prone to seasickness. Joy.

Friday 08.06 After a stress-free journey, during which I have to restrain myself from buying a £34.99 Toblerone which probably

weighs about four stone from the duty free shop, we are ready to jump ship at 07.00. A comically dysfunctional register is taken, in which everyone discovers that certain couples are most probably still making babies in their respective cabins, and we traipse off the boat and into the sub-zero temperatures of beautiful Zeebrugge.

Dan

08.21 We immediately come across a group of fellow hitchers looking to blag their way onto a coach, and decide to do the same. Success! V and I fill up the last two seats: up front, next to the driver. What follows is a half-hour summary of the life and times of a 67-year-old coach driver from Middlesbrough - father, grandfather, hero. After informing us that the tubby passengers he is carrying (who couldn't really look any more English) are pigeon

fanatics travelling to Bruges to spend ludicrous amounts of money on the flying vermin, he unleashes an intense account of the trials and tribulations of his family. Some painfully uncomfortable moments follow in which Mr Pigeon claims that he would 'do time' should he ever find his daughter's ex-boyfriend.

09.33 We finally arrive in Bruges. Hurrah! After thanking Mr Pigeon with a bone crunching handshake, we set off to discover the wonderful city, famous for its medieval architecture and lace, don't you know.

V

09.36 Fuck lace, let's get hitching for Christ's sake! After wandering aimlessly for a bit, I decide to go into the foyer of a hotel to put on a second pair of trousers and a third jumper. Dan helpfully films this graceful transformation into some kind of Michelin Woman. (Cheers

What follows is a half-hour summary of the life and times of a 67-year-old coach driver from Middlesbrough - father, grandfather, hero



WINDY: Amsterdam, famed for its puff, also gets its fair share of blow, and is host to any number of windmills.

PHOTO: ED REX

for that. YouTube it and you die...) I waddle over to the bemused receptionists and attempt, in dire French, to convey that we are skanky lost hitch-hikers wanting to get the hell out of their town. Giving us an exquisite map and some confused smiles, they set us on the 'correct route', which, as it turns out, is the complete opposite direction of our desired destination. We stumble upon a bus and train station. 'Let's get the bus to Ghent!' I beg. But, alas, Dan has much more pride than me. So, in short, we spend two hours milling around the roads of Bruges like disorientated waifs, holding our 'Amsterdam, please!' sign at a pitiful angle and nearly getting killed by disgruntled cyclists. At last we decide that, if we spend one more moment in Bruges, we might kill ourselves, so return to the same train station where we were just two hours previously and gleefully purchase some gleaming tickets to Antwerp. Screw dignity! On the platform, we meet two other hitchers who have had the same God-given brainwave and jump aboard the most fabulous train in the world. OK, it's not quite the Orient Express but, at this point, we're darn happy to see anything with wheels willing to transport us in the general direction of Amsterdam. As we chat to our fellow hitchers, it turns out that the girl lives right near my hometown, and we have a bunch of tenuously linked mutual acquaintances. Quite bizarre to be discussing the intricacies of Bedfordshire life with someone I met ten minutes ago on a train to Antwerp, but fabulous, nonetheless!

14.46 Having reached Antwerp, we get the tram to the hitching hotspot, and soon discover that neither of our credit cards are working and we have about 15 Euros in cash between us. Fab! We stand by the road and are immediately picked up by a kindly lady with a minuscule car. She thinks nothing of completely holding up the angrily honking row of traffic behind us as we clamber in, with me desperately trying to wedge myself in amongst about 73 rucksacks on the tiny backseat. After some general chit-chat for about half the journey, Dan and I nearly fall asleep in the car's tropical heat. When the car comes to an abrupt halt as we reach our stop, we say our goodbyes and prepare to freeze our extremities off in the hope of finding another perfect hitch.

Dan

16.05 The lady, whose name escapes me, drops us off in an unbelievably awkward spot at 4am. In the middle of about five separate major roads, we need to find somewhere to hitch from (it's illegal to hitch from motorway laybys). Thus, we are left roaming the roads outside Rotterdam for about half an hour in search of a petrol station or a service depot. On our mini ramble, we encounter a row of houses down a side street adjacent to the motorway - the residents must just love living there. Despite their over-polluted location, these houses appear warm, homely and idyllic. BUT NO. This is merely a front as they are actually home to some of the most terrifying

creatures known to man, born in the depths of hell and come to earth to haunt naive, unsuspecting travellers. A Rottweiler of gargantuan proportions jumps at the front window of its dwelling, comically smacking its ugly head on the glass, howling at its prey. V flies at least three feet into the air in sheer fright. I stand without flinching, of course.

17.34 When we eventually find a petrol station, we are absolutely knackered and so decide to linger for a while in its warmth. After asking what must be about 30 motorists if they are heading to Amsterdam and not one of them saying yes, disillusion begins to set in. To combat it, we decide to peruse the ridiculous ready meals on offer in the petrol station. After a good chuckle at dishes that look like Wayne Rooney, we think it best to get a bus into the centre of Rotterdam and see what we can manage from there. To add to our

When we eventually find a petrol station, we are absolutely knackered and so decide to linger for a while in its warmth. After asking what must be about 30 motorists if they are heading to Amsterdam and not one of them saying yes, disillusion begins to set in

enjoyment, it starts to rain...a lot. It is also very, very cold.

18.53 By the time we get into Rotterdam (The Beautiful South are by now firmly rooted in my head), it is six o'clock. We have been travelling for nearly 10 hours and we are fed up. I know it's called a charity 'hitch' and that people who have sponsored us don't expect us to use recognised modes of transport, but they aren't there. So we decide to fuck it and get the train! Plus, we find out when we get to Amsterdam that most of our fellow 'hitchies' have got a train at some point - a few all the way. Therefore, we refuse to feel guilty.



GLORIOUS: The port of Hull (above) bathed in early morning sunshine. It is the travel hub for many a 'stag do' heading for Amsterdam's bright lights but, for our hapless pair, it is almost the scene of another travel disaster. And a hitcher in action (below), trying to find route to a rather ill-tempered Zeebrugge.

PHOTOS: ADAM QUERSHI



But even getting the train proves difficult. Along the way we have tried to get cash out at numerous ATM machines and have each time failed. The bastard European machines refuse to acknowledge our cards. Mastercard worldwide my arse. Up until now we have survived on about 20 quid that V changed to euros on the ferry, but now we are really up against it. We need cash badly. Would the machines in Rotterdam help us out? No. This is getting ridiculous; on the prospect of being stuck in Rotterdam I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Fortunately enough, for some miraculous reason, the self-serve

ticket machines accept my Maestro. Hurrah and thank God! We are going to Amsterdam. On the cash front, we refuse to give in. We find out that if V could pay on her Mastercard she could get a maximum of 20 euros' cashback. We enter the station shop just before it is about to close in order to buy, all individually, a push-pop, some deodorant and some shaving gel. This pisses the shop assistants off no end; the phrase 'we've got homes to go to, you know' is apparently popular in Holland as well. But we now have money - 60 euros to be exact - and we promptly celebrate by buying three slices of greasy pizza

from... Pizza Hut (it's all about the culture).

By a quarter to eight we are on the train to Amsterdam.

V

21.46 Finally! Amsterdam! Yes! It's cool, pretty and everyone's stoned! We would tell you about how we nearly got killed by an angry taxi-driver, and the incident with the mushrooms on the tram, and the speaking in tongues, but we're running out of paper... So we recommend that YOU do the Amsterdam Hitch for RAG next year, and see if you survive it as well.

A sanctuary from Leeds' vice streets

Like every British city, Leeds' streets are walked each night by prostitutes looking for business. Rarely are they given respite from work into which many are forced and few can get out of. But a city drop-in centre offers some hope. **Thea Lenarduzzi** reports

As yet another tower block shoots up in the middle of Leeds, promising slick city centre living and the opportunity of living in a building strongly resembling a roll of tinfoil, and as more breeze-block student accommodation looms, ugly on the horizon, recommitting architectural crimes of the 1960s, you can't help but feel that peo-

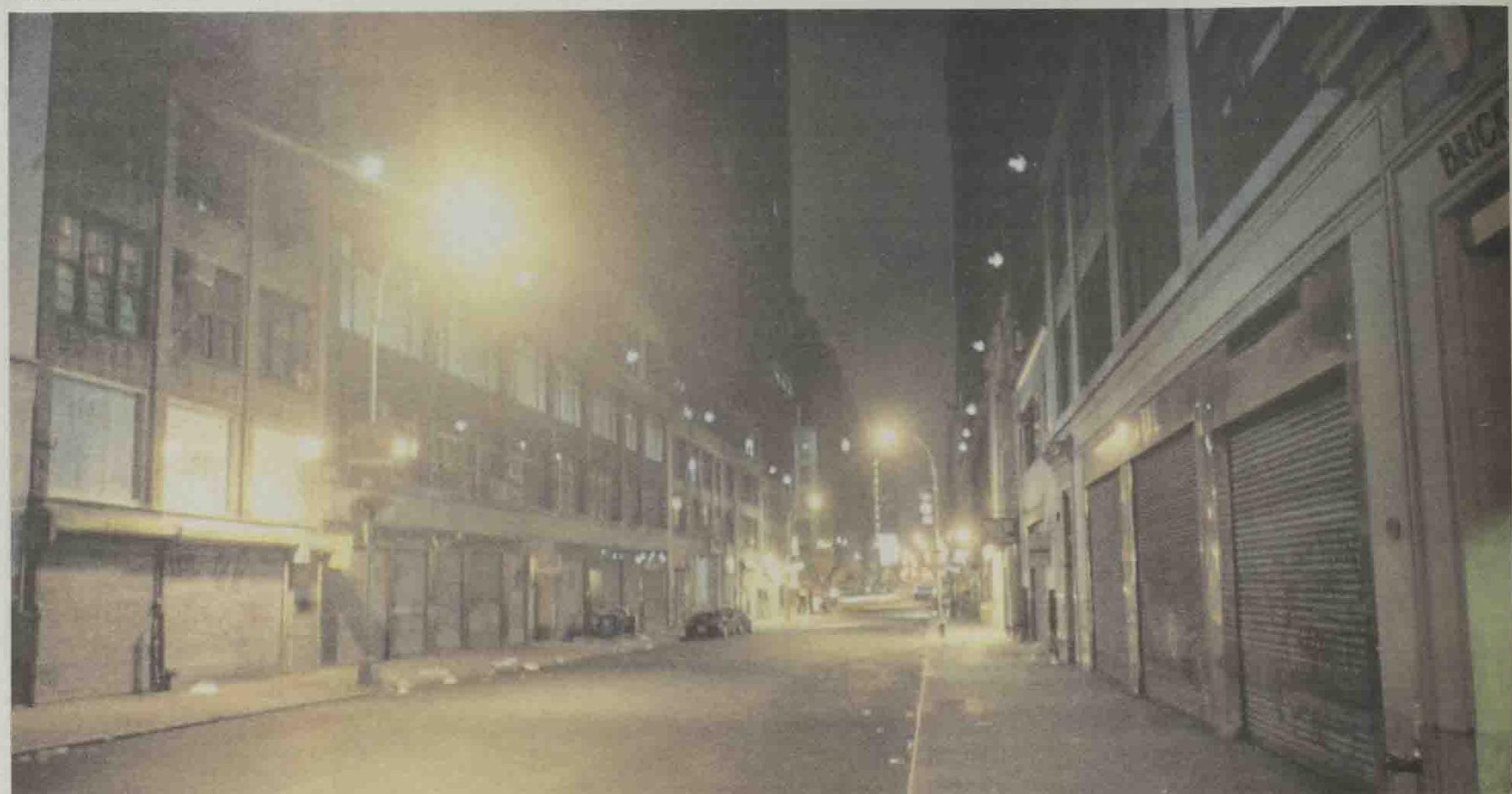
shoe-laces (this may take longer than expected for some, myself included), we are slowly being engulfed by a bubble. It's soft, cosy, and quite attractive really, so we don't worry about it too much - we'll quite happily just drift along in it, thank you very much. We can't see out of it but maybe that's why we like it.

and breathe Leeds because they have to. They can see us but we can't see them because, even if we were looking, they're all too quickly swept between the pavement cracks by the industrial cleaners that patrol the streets, and pushed somewhere out of sight; and out of mind. It seems strange that as recent figures show prostitution to have

excluded from its comforts; those who don't factor into our everyday lives? We ignore those we think are different from us. We feel guilty at considering ourselves more worthy of a place in that bubble. But guilt alone is useless - the fact that we merely feel it almost makes us think we've somehow done our bit as decent human beings. So, we continue

oblivious masses and theirs is a song you must use your eyes to hear.

Women working in prostitution have often been used as artists' muses - Egon Schiele's famous series of paintings of women in various poses being one example of the alliance between painting and prostitution - but the recent creations at Genesis come from pushing the



HIDDEN CORNERS: Prostitutes are thought by many to be dwellers of underworlds like these streets. But Genesis offers place from where their 'songs' can be heard. Given the opportunity to practise art, one sex worker said: "I was given the insight to see how beautiful art really is: how a simple object, a dandelion or a butterfly, is art and can be interpreted in so many different ways."

ple seem to have been caught up in a decisively "out-with-the-old-and-in-with-the-new" philosophy of life. All dust must be swept up - or at least under the carpet. It seems that as the council puts more and more clout into cleaning up the streets, filling in its hot, cracked cement and erecting flat-pack office buildings in the time it takes us to tie our

But what happens to those who see these changes going on all around them but aren't allowed into the bubble? They're not young professionals working respectably dull jobs in HSBC, 'aspiring academics', or even some guy whose name you can't quite remember off the television. No. These are the real people of Leeds; the people who live

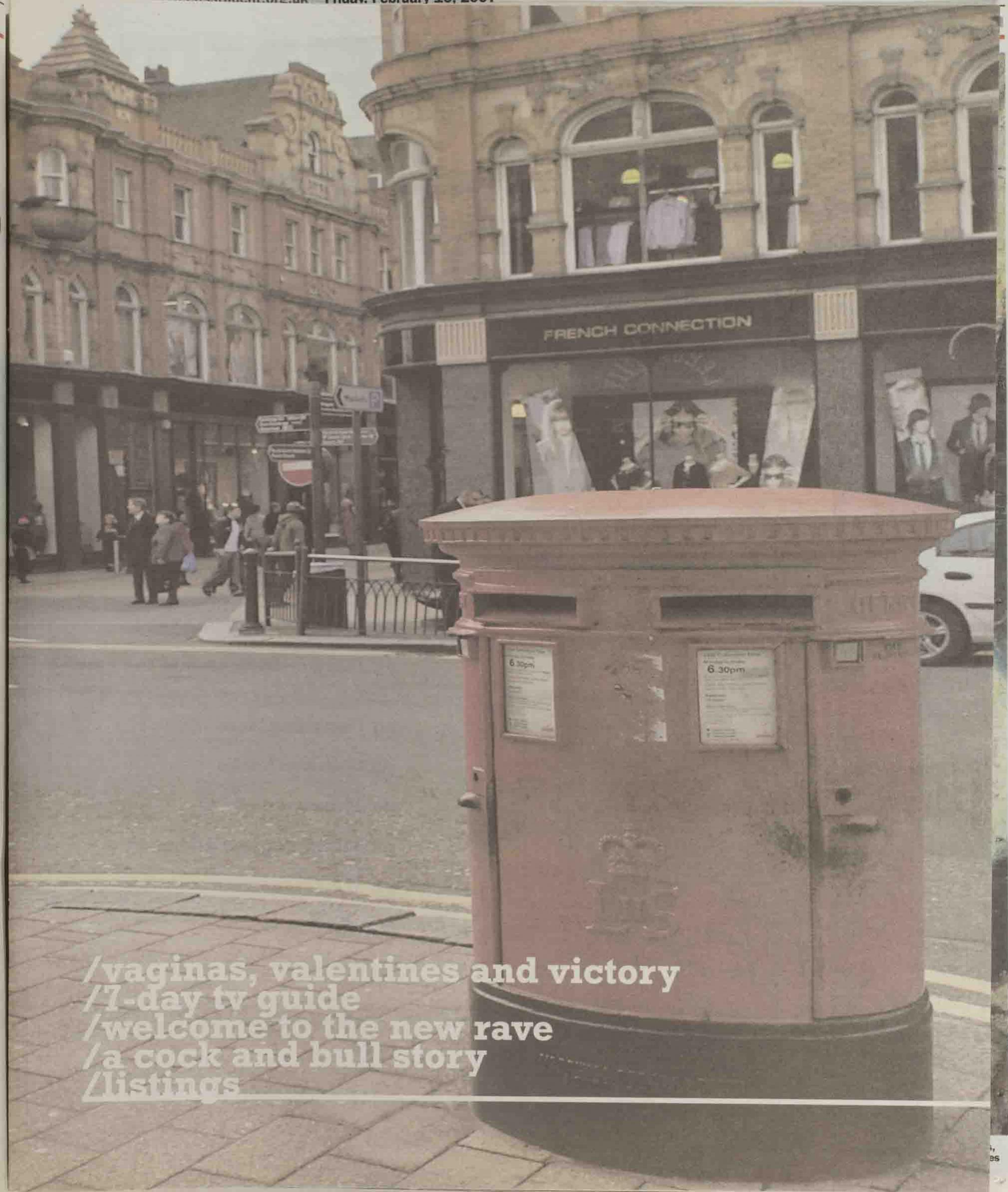
increased in parts of Britain such as Glasgow, and a BBC report reveals that many students are turning to prostitution in an attempt to pay rising university fees, evidence of it is harder to find than ever.

As the bubble grows ever-larger, shinier and all together more impressive, what happens to those who are

to avert our eyes and block our ears so that the songs of these 'unfortunate' few, be they homeless, those working in prostitution, drug-addicts, or all of the above, remain unheard.

The women at 'Genesis', a Leeds project offering support to those affected by prostitution, have found a different way of communicating with the

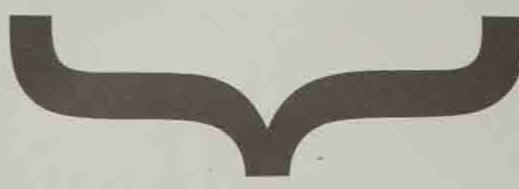
brush into the hand of what has previously only been seen as the object. Though, arguably, much can be read in the eyes of Schiele's 'Sitzender Weiblicher' (posed by 'Wally', his muse of choice), we are now given the opportunity to cut out the middleman and hear it straight from the horse's mouth. Relative objectivity is thus replaced by stern



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Front Cover - Patrick Nixon

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I have been having some pretty weird dreams recently. One involved me as a Chinese man, trained in the art of Samurai in the midst of battle. In another I was running away from a nasty old man and eventually I shot him and then tossed him into a pond. In another, more mundane dream I was having a cup of tea and a cake in the Merrion centre with my Mum; although this was perhaps the most upsetting. The thing is about dreams though, no matter how bizarre and disturbing they seem to you, they are really really boring to anyone else. Just like regaling a companion with a tale about an arduous journey you had to make up the M6 is boring, so is describing a dream you've had at length. The same goes for how your day was at uni/work/spent in front of the TV. Nobody cares, you know you don't and they know you don't. Maybe that's why we all carry on telling our friends every banality of our meagre existence. It's something to pass the time I suppose. If something out of the ordinary happens, like you sprained your wrist putting your knickers on, then great, go for it, tell all and sundry. It will make you look more interesting and may keep hold of your friend's attention for a while and prevent them from cutting you out of their life for a little bit longer. But beware, if your news is too good, or too interesting you may rouse feelings of jealousy or contempt in the listener. That isn't good either. Self deprecating news is best, like, saying "that really fit one text me today but it turns out he got the wrong number". Maybe add a pause in the middle of this sentence to add suspense and as you hear the envy in their voice rise, hit them with the punchline. Works every time. OM

Me as Samurai



Who likes winning money without becoming a depressing loser who spends all their time in Betfred or playing online poker? Quite a few of you I bet (pun unintended). If you are also a particularly anal person who likes answering incessant questions then why not start doing the pub quiz circuit? Of course you don't have to do a quiz every single night, you'll need time to revise, but if you do want to spend every spare leisure moment in a pub in fierce competition with a bunch of strangers, then great because there's a lot on offer. Monday night head down to The Box in Headingley. This will be a gentle introduction to your quizzing as the questions tend to be easy and everyone cheats. After this warm up session, venture further into Headingley on Tuesday evening to either the Three Horseshoes or the New Inn where the questions will prove much harder, so try not to embarrass yourself or your team. Wednesday is rest time. Load up Encarta '95 and brush up your knowledge. On Thursday leave Hedders behind and go to the Royal Park. The quiz is mediocre so you might come out a winner in which case you can spend or drink your winnings over the weekend until Sunday when it's back to work at the Eldon. OM

Top 5 Trannies

Everyone loves a tranny, with their big hands, slender thighs and protruding throats. Bring joy to all, no matter what sex. If you're a lady they will make you feel good about not having a penis and if you're a man they will, well, just make you feel good. 1. Eddie Izzard. Not a proper tranny, he just does it for a move in with one of his fans because Pete's lost his house. Depressing. 3. Lily Savage. Really really annoying and tragic as most trannies in showbusiness tend to be. Lily's far better than the man underneath though and his sorry excuse for a Richard and Judy substitute, we hope Buster drowns. 4. Dame Edna Everage. Actually pretty funny, well Barry Humphries is anyway. 5. Jo O'Meara. Not strictly a tranny but she could have had us fooled. Horsey face, bitchy and emotionally crippled. Maybe she should stop rearing dogs and start making money as a man.

Welcome...

Patrick Wolf, singer-songwriter with an angular face and floppy hair. You probably haven't heard of him. He's a bit of a weirdo though, right? He's only 23 and has been obsessed with music since he was 12, citing his influences as PJ Harvey, Stockhausen, Joni Mitchell and Lowdown favourite, 1940s jazz trumpeter Chet Baker. Small independent record label Fat Cat Records gave him an Atari computer and mixing desk and Wolf went on from there to create a diverse canon of work, ranging from electronic beats to beautiful melodic string arrangements which background tormented lyrics of a tortured adolescence. For those of you who still perceive yourself as a tortured adolescent despite being the wrong side of 20 (I for one certainly do) then just maybe you'll warm to Patrick Wolf, and will wish to trudge along to his gig at the Cockpit on Tuesday February 20th. He will no doubt be showcasing tracks from his new album "The Magic Position" which features guest spots from Ed Larrikin of Larrikin Love, and the illustrious Marianne Faithfull of shagging Mick Jagger fame. Uncut Magazine has described Wolf's new album in a very flattering light: 'Like David Bowie and Kate Bush before him, Wolf has feasted on a myriad of influences, yet has the drive and vision to sound like nobody but himself.' It is difficult to describe Wolf's eclectic sound so rather than letting me waffle on blindly trying to make sense of his tunes, why not go and see him? You won't regret it, I hope. PK



Patrick Wolf: he's behind you...

Overheard...

...I want to shoot her up the fanny so she can't have kids...you're just not thin enough to be an emo...I want some dirty minge...I think I'm going to spaz out in Pizza Cano...you make that ring look cheap, no offense...you haven't had a sniff of a man in months...he looks like an owl on smack...you're a textbook spinster...you're exuding depression via hysteria...Louise Woodward is my idol...

words/ poppy and olivia (really good at bowling)

LOW DOWN

Olivia and Poppy give you the Lowdown on next week...

Wild Turkey
The finest of the bourbons. It gives a fairly nasty hangover but in moderation with diet coke it is a little piece of quaffable heaven. Get on it.

Steak
Sorry if you're vegetarian but nothing beats a good steak cooked medium. Serve with new potatoes and a crispy green salad. Shame it's so pricey.

American Idol
One of those things you can just watch catatonically without paying any attention to it whatsoever. Mind-numbingly enjoyable.

Mini Eggs
Back once again as Easter approaches. So much better than Creme Eggs (which are vile), look fetching and are deliciously moreish.

Being a hermit
There really is no excuse for not leaving the house all day, especially when it is as sunny as it has been lately. Go for a walk. Stand on your front step. Lean out of the window. Anything.

Snow
Yeah yeah it's really romantic and looks really nice but hell it's cold. Makes walking extremely hazardous and is like rain only more painful.

Long fingernails
Just not practical and look gross. Poppy cannot help the rate at which hers grow because she drinks so much milk, but she hates them vehemently. Keep them short.

Hollyoaks overreaction
Yes John-Paul is gay. Get over it you bunch of homophobic idiots. Jake killed someone and no-one seems to care. What a farce.

Going up

Going Down

Want to write for *Leeds Student*?

**Fridays, 5pm.
LS Office
First floor, LUU.**



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RICHARD WOOLLEY



email/ eng4raw@leeds.ac.uk
 richard is an english finalist

My partner lives in Brighton. For those of you accustomed to the blustery Northern coast, I have to tell you; Brighton is infinitely cooler than Leeds. Beach parties, vegetarians galore, friendly people and Snooper's Paradise are just a handful of reasons. However, other than really expensive pints, there is another major downside to this utopia-on-sea. In case you didn't know already I'm afraid I'm going to have to break the news to you. Brighton is not in my bed. I wish Brighton was in my bed. If it was, I could close the door to my cold room in Leeds, get under the covers and find a boy, a beach and barbecue-flavoured Linda McCartney sausages nestled amongst the cotton...

Oh right! So, it's Valentine's Day coming up. This comes as great news for capitalists, unimaginative boyfriends/girlfriends and CATS. The rest of us sigh with indifference and go about our lives. Or do we? A friend of the Chris Dixon house has reported that in the Union there was a workshop for people to make their own V-Day cards. At a cost of £3.50 you could presumably spend the afternoon with other artistically-challenged students and cut'n'paste together. If that's not romance, I don't know what is. I have a problem with this (does this surprise you?) for several reasons. First of all, the cost. £3.50? If you are going to make a cheap card, why not do what I do for my ever-so-lucky friends and cut up old copies of the New Statesman and stick onto scrap paper. Nothing says I love you like George Bush's head on a dog's body. It will inevitably be smeared with grease from the fried tofu sandwich I was almost certainly consuming while constructing, but it's part of the charm. Secondly, what exactly are the qualifications of the host of this event? Surely the reason that you have opted for the home made card approach is because you thought it would be more personal than the selection of "Hey, Luv, get yer tits out!" cards available at the local newsagents. How exactly are you

going to tap into this personalised creativity with some geezer wearing a brown sack turned zen-pyjama outfit breathing down your neck. "Feel the love, feel the passion..." he oozes as he massages your temples. Your Pritt stick and plastic scissors pause mid-air. The door is just out of your grasp.

According to Mori, four times as many men as women feel pressurised by their partner into giving a card or gift on Valentine's Day and a third of women are indifferent to the day. We have created this mess ourselves! The men feel panicked into splashing out because they think the women care, but actually the women don't really give a toss. And those who do care only care because the media and the card companies and the four-times-as-many men make them think they should. Or are they just stating indifference because it is increasingly fashionable to be anti-Valentine's day? If we are not careful we will end up like our wacky American cousins who are expected to spend \$13.70 billion on Valentine's Day this year. What on earth could they possibly be buying?

It's familiar ground to argue that you don't really need a calendar to tell you when you love someone. If you are not telling them or letting it show on most days then why exactly are you bothering? Orchestrated 'love day' is about as appealing as arriving home to find John Prescott reclining naked on your sofa. It will never be clean again. Organised love seems too much like organised fun. How often do you sit around with your mates saying, "Let's have fun at exactly 8pm on Thursday night"? Organised fun makes me think of days at school when you were allowed to play bingo in French as a treat (um, why exactly am I here? I may be thirteen but I'm not stupid...), or when a sports teacher was off sick so they teamed you up to play rounders with boys who fail to grasp the concept of playing for fun. You miss the ball and the next thing you know you're

February. Stumbling block of the ugly and alone. London Fashion Week with Valentine's Day stuck in the middle. Gosh how do you bear it?

I don't care. Stop complaining to me. There was a time it would have bothered me, and we could have slunk down to some godawful pub to get wasted in a stupor of depressed self-examination: "What's so wrong with ME? Don't I deserve to be loved?" Hey, maybe not. I'm not at all interested in how lonely or sad you are. Go cry by yourself, leave me alone.

The trials of St. Valentine's Day are nothing to me when I consider the greater challenge February poses to my patience and self-composure. Yes, democracy rides again, it's student election season. Suddenly my entrance to the Union is barred by the garish ranks of desperate campaigners stuffing flyers into my every receptive orifice, most of which contain little more than the candidate's name preceded by the imperative VOTE.

So I have my campaign literature, what else can these eager politicians do to tip the scales? Not much it seems, beyond launching elaborate poster campaigns, starting Facebook groups and dressing in silly clothes. And still they demand that I vote, or in some cases "vote! vote! vote!", for emphasis or something. It incenses me then that certain of my friends give me a perpetual hard time when, in such scenarios of political poverty, I refuse to vote (and I extend this refusal to general elections too).

Their arguments are generally threefold. 1) X amount of now very long dead gentlemen and ladies made great sacrifices to ensure I live in a democratic society and not voting does them a disservice (note: the value of X changes depending on who is berating me at the time). 2) I have no right to discuss politics if I refuse to vote.

3) Political apathy is yet another symptom of my lazy and self-interested generation, where ideals take second place to i-Pods and The O.C.

Balls to the lot of you. The quick answer to all three is this: I value my right to vote, yet if I see no reason to vote, I value my right to refuse to vote. This refusal isn't symbolic of anything, I'm not making a comment on the futility of modern politics or anything high-flown like that. It is merely a belief that whichever way I vote, the result will be roughly the same, both in Union Elections and in the generals.

I suppose this is what irks the try-hard socialists and life-long blues who, I should add, are my sternest critics. But for me there is no party line to tow: I care more about policies than I do about the colour of the speaker's tie. Posters on and around campus which recommend their candidate only with the legend "he/she/they/it is great/magic/cool/the best" tell you nothing. Votes are won based on old allegiances and friendships and new flatteries. No serious campaign literature exists because no one feels inclined to read it, decisions are already made. And in this climate I'm not voting for anyone.

I'm naive really to look for policies where none have ever existed. Student elections are the same show-off extravaganza every year. The wackier and more outlandish a candidate can be; say a potential Equality Officer blacks up and does an ironic mistral routine on the steps of the Union to illustrate how race relations have progressed since 1926, the more they win praise from their peers, like an Otley run without the saving grace of strong drink.

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 chris is a broadcast journalism finalist

CHRIS DIXON



VALENTINES, VAGINAS AND VICTORY

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In case you hadn't noticed, it was the big V-Day this week. For most of you, that probably meant either a slap-up dinner with a significant other or unwise amounts of Ben and Jerry's with fellow insignificant singleton others. However, it is not quite that V-Day I speak of. In 1998, Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*, appended a certain extra something to the day of Saint Valentine: the Vagina. Specifically, Ensler's V-Day actually stands for the three Vs of Valentines, Vagina and Victory. To elaborate, V-Day aims to harness the sentiments of Valentines as a means to stop violence against women (women are, in this case, referred to as Vaginas). This fight will, we all hope, eventually end in Victory. V-Day might be seen as a feminist encroachment on the traditional Feb 14th celebrations (or suicides) but it might equally be viewed as merely a different and positive interpretation of a day that supposedly commemorates mutual love and respect between men, women and their shared interest in vaginas.

You may have noticed the word vagina floating around our own campus a lot recently. The annual staging of *The Vagina Monologues*, in aid of STAR (Surviving Trauma After Rape), has come again to our Union with a somewhat new take on things. No longer are the audience commanded to proudly and unashamedly shout "cunt! cunt! cunt! cunt!" but, rather, a planted audience member suddenly storms to the stage (sporting a jacket that reads "I love Vaginas") and bellows the chant alone with mega-

phone interestingly positioned between her legs. This satirical shock therapy is typical of the spirit of the play which has always attracted a certain amount of attention.

Immersed in controversy since its birth (vaginal pun intended), many critics have taken issue with the play's disproportionate focus on violent and brutal sexual encounters rather than celebrating the prettier niceties of consensual sex, as portrayed in your average Hollywood or Richard Curtis Rom-Com. Ensler's portrayal of male-female sexual relationships has similarly been criticised for unfair negativity. However, the critics are well-matched with stalwart Ensler fans. Cathleen Black, publisher of women's magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Marie Claire* and *Harpers Bazaar*, argues the necessity of telling "the profound stories of what women are really suffering around the world". In case you do not know, *The Vagina Monologues* essentially consists of just what Black says: stories. To be precise, it springs from a collection of over two hundred interviews with women of all ages, social backgrounds, ethnicities and religion. These interviews, as you might guess, focused on the subject of sex and the role of the vagina for individuals and in society. Ensler explains her fascination with the vagina: "Women's empowerment is deeply connected to their sexuality. I'm obsessed with women being violated and raped, and with incest. All of these things are deeply connected to our vaginas." If you are wondering if you have reached a state of complete vaginal empowerment,

then try comparing yourself to one of Ensler's idols, "I love Tina Turner. She's a woman who fully inhabits her vagina."

And, in the spirit of Tina Turner, this play is all about speaking out. For example, if it hadn't been for the current Leeds University production of *The Vagina Monologues*, I very much doubt I would have heard an acquaintance speak the words, 'I love my vagina' at four in the afternoon in the POLIS computer cluster. This may sound a little facetious, given the important issues of sexual violence and female identity that the play addresses, but it's not an insignificant point either. It seems unlikely that, under any other circumstances, vaginas would have been a socially acceptable topic of conversation in such a context (it doesn't matter how liberal the POLIS department may be). Not only this, but it would never have occurred to me or my vagina-loving friend to even mention the V word in each other's presence (not that I'm suggesting us women mention it to ourselves constantly when alone – that would be odd). You may disagree

"If you are wondering if you have reached a state of complete vaginal empowerment, then try comparing yourself with one of Ensler's idols: 'I love Tina Turner. She's a woman who fully inhabits her vagina.'"

that my 4pm POLIS experience was of great significance as an illustration of the play's impact upon social norms. You may, like the boy at the neighbouring computer, struggle not to flinch and cringe every time the V-word is mentioned. If you are, I have only one thing to say to you: vagina.

There is also more substantial evidence that times have changed since *The Vagina Monologues* was first performed in an underground bar in New York in 1996. At the time, despite heavy press coverage from radio, TV and the newspapers, the media somehow managed to avoid out-rightly saying or printing the V-word. Newspapers abbreviated, radios bleeped and TV managed to show large segments of the play without mentioning the V-word once. Although it would have been very amusing to still see TV presenters squirm as they attempted to review *The Vagina Monologues* without mentioning the word 'vagina', such censorship is thankfully no longer practised by the majority of the media. I even remember (and I probably shouldn't admit this) the wholesome father figure in the family friendly show, *Dawson's Creek*, speaking of *The Vagina Monologues*

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES EVE ENSLER

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- in front of Dawson, of all people, who must surely be the most asexual male protagonist in American Teen TV history.

"Newspapers abbreviated, radios bleeped and TV managed to show large segments of the play without mentioning the V-word once."

Now, if you've never said the word *vagina* out loud, I would highly recommend it. Not just because it would be slightly sad to be less outrageous than any of the characters on *Dawson's Creek*, but because it can be quite liberating. One audience member, who happens to study medicine, authoritatively diagnosed this sudden impulse to start saying socially unacceptable words as the 'Ensler outrageous bug'. However, as infected as I and other audience members may now be, we all fall far short of the outrageous author herself. For example, the outrageousness of her most controversial *vagina* monologue, "The Little Coochie Snorcher that Could". (Skip the

bitions before they have sex. Any concerns that this might be condoning rape are unfounded. It is, in fact, recognised and, some say, condoned by the play. The line, "If it was rape, it was good rape" certainly could be construed as demonstrating a somewhat nonchalant attitude towards such sexual misdemeanours just because there is no man involved. However, given Ensler's tireless dedication to the fight against any form of the sexual and physical abuse of women, complainants of "The Little Coochie Snorcher" might be advised to 'read between the lines', as it were, before deciding Ensler is a fan of lesbian rape. A prominent case on this issue was that of Robert Swope, an American journalist for the Georgetown University newspaper, who criticised *The Vagina Monologues* for this very reason in 2000. He argued Ensler was hypocritical to effectively sanction one kind of 'rape' whilst constantly campaigning against another. Swope's views, expressed in a more vehement fashion than recorded here, led to his being fired due to public complaint. Whether you think this sounds like credible justice or hysterical over-reaction, it is interesting to note some of Robert Swope's other work, such as the article entitled, 'Georgetown Women's Center: Indispensable Asset or Improper Expenditure?' You can guess what conclusion he reaches. "The Little Coochie Snorcher" caused enough controversy, however, to force adjustments to later versions of the play. The play's copyright holder warns that legal action will be taken should performers now utter the line, "it was good rape" and the young girl's age has been pushed up from thirteen to sixteen, so everything's just about legal.

Regardless of the controversy, *The Vagina*

had survived enormous abuse if I'd been committed to that. I was committed to this." Her unknown childhood was not the end of Ensler's traumas. As a teenager, and into her early twenties, she turned to drink and drugs. Through this pursuit, she met bartender and future husband, Richard McDermott. He persuaded her to enter rehab which, combined with writing, proved to be her salvation. "By writing, I created an alternative persona that I could pretend I was, and she could hold all this info and feelings and thoughts for the future that I couldn't hold in me. I have to write. Like it's the way I keep my sanity."

Despite *The Vagina Monologues*' popular and critical success (the play has been translated into forty-five languages), Ensler actually hopes for a time when her work will go out of business! "That's what I chant for every day. That one day we won't have to be here anymore. There'll be a day when women literally can put on the shortest skirt and tightest top and feel good that everyone will look at them with great appreciation and great enjoyment and no one will hassle them or make them feel bad or insecure or threatened."

So, whether Valentines was miserable or magic for you this year, remember that there's another way to view this annual event. You might have missed the 'alternative' V-Day altogether or you might have commemorated it with great ceremony. Regardless, it serves as a possible reminder of that well-known truth: cards can say only so much but a *vagina*, when fully inhabited, can say everything.



VAGINAS: Actresses in the Traverse City, Michigan, production of the play in 2004

rest of this paragraph if you don't want to read a spoiler - actually just read the spoiler because this paragraph's funny). In the original version, a thirteen year old describes a sexual encounter with a somewhat more mature woman. The more mature woman has given her young friend alcohol to lower her inhibi-

Monologues and V-Day have been instrumental in raising over thirty-five million dollars for charities that support the fight against violence, sexual abuse and rape. Ensler herself was a victim of sexual abuse as a young girl at the hands of her own father and says: "I don't know if I had not been a person who

For more information on V-Day, visit
<http://www.vday.org>

words/jessica parker

THE END OF THE WARDROBE?

AS THE CROWD-PULLING CLUB GIANTS ENTICE MORE AND MORE OF THE MASSES, WE FORGET AND FORGO THE AILING INDEPENDENTS. IS THE WARDROBE'S PAINFULLY LONG REFURBISHMENT AND FAILURE TO RETURN TO ITS FORMER GLORY PART OF THE DEATH OF THE LEEDS LIVE MUSIC SCENE?

The Wardrobe is held in great esteem by many students across Leeds. It gets to a point where it's so painful hearing the same string of 'end-of-the-night' songs again that you briefly envision plucking out the vocal chords of the overplayed likes of Bon Jovi, Beyoncé and the Arctic Monkeys. (It really is a very brief impulse, just in case you're worried that I have some unresolved anger issues.) However, away from the mundane tradition of jumping up and down in a circle with random drunks to 'It's my life' three times a week, there has always been a refuge. The Wardrobe has, for many years, been the place to go for something a little more original. Selling itself as a live music venue, this haven offers you the chance to dine delectably at their restaurant and then party the night away in their club. Soul, funk and jazz reign supreme, allowing the musical snob to get his or her fill of those quality tunes that are neglected in your average club. Yet, for many Wardrobe fans, things have been a bit different recently.

The Wardrobe used to provide an intimate setting for great live music sessions. One criticism of Leeds has always been that there is no real live music venue on the same scale as the MEN or Sheffield Hallam Arena. The Wardrobe was our answer to this criticism. Although no Sheffield Hallam, it was a venue where the spirit of live music and gigs thrived, enough to rival any top live music destination. Still a sizeable venue, it allowed and

the city's music culture no longer existing. Since opening in 1999, it has flourished and grown to become not only a haven, away from the boredom that is so often induced at other clubs, but a place to discover great artists and even genres that you had never really considered before.

The fact that it has closed despite an enduring popularity and loyal fan base shows something of a flawed strategy by an indecisive management. They seem not only unsure as to what exactly to do with the great space they have, but also when to let the public back in so that we can finally find out what we might expect for the future of one of our old favourites. Perhaps one of the larger issues here is the ongoing debate of how independent and original live music venues can compete with the big fresher eye-catching chains such as Oceana. These massive, soulless clubs distract and win over students with their cheap alcohol offers, overwhelming advertising campaigns, 'a little bit of everything' music range (Oceana has six or seven bars and club rooms) and plain physical presence. This is not to say that the crowd-pulling clubs that cater for the masses are wholly bad or don't serve a purpose. Anyone's got a right to dance the night away to their favourite cheese or R'n'B songs if that's what they enjoy. But, in the spirit of university being a place where the young come to discover new things and have new experiences, it seems sad when the mighty likes of Oceana or Creation

the nearer home. Have the student population's commercially susceptible, drink-addled minds fallen for the cheap offers and poster campaigns once too often? Are we thinking too much of our purses (or indeed, wallets) and too little of our musical integrity, to the detriment of genuine musical gems in Leeds?

Perhaps you feel I'm condemning the live music scene to death a little prematurely. Or, perhaps, you rather like the new Wardrobe. It does have its plus points. Although not totally convinced that the improvements on the bar and restaurant required such a lengthy closing period, the look they've gone for is by no means an eye-sore. And one can't deny that the Wardrobe's new menu looks delicious and well worth a try, even if it is a little out of student budget range. And they're willing to accommodate large groups and parties at the restaurant, if you fancied a slightly more suave birthday bash than your average annual piss-up.

To get an idea of the sort of clientele that their new look might be appealing to, you only need to go a few streets over and find yourself at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. No one can blame the Wardrobe for wanting to capitalise on those moneyed middle-class theatre-goers who would, doubtless, feel less inclined to partake of the Wardrobe's set theatre menu should over-excited student types be cluttering the place up as they revved up for a big night on the tiles. But, even if you do enjoy a smart bar and sophisticated dinner for a post-Shakespeare celebration, the restaurant will not replace the club that still lies in the hearts of so many music fans. The grieving process will possibly be a little alleviated by the eclectic mix of funk and soul, the live bands on at the café/bar and nights such as the "Soul Circle" and "The Resident Session". Although a mere shadow of its former glory, the Wardrobe is still providing undeniably a regular fix of fantastic music. Undoubtedly, there can be no substitute for the size and depth of the old club venue as the music at the café/bar tends to wash over you in a pleasurable but less gripping way.

Perhaps I'll have to face the truth. The Wardrobe just isn't as keen on the likes of us anymore. They now feel more partial to suited office types who will come and buy expensive bottles of wine, with a few colleagues after work, and civilly sip away whilst discussing the ins and outs of the stock market. You can see the appeal given the alternative: rowdy young 'uns charging up to the bar, asking what special offers are on, screaming in outrage if informed there aren't any and then spilling their vodka red bulls and stella's all over the floor anyway. Although Wardrobe seems to be habitually keeping up something of its live music traditions and guarantee of good food, student clubbing has plummeted way down the priority list.

Although squeezed out of the management's marketing strategy, this jazz lover will still cling on to the Wardrobe and its unique offerings, past and partially present. For one thing, I'd miss the bouncers too much. Their easy-going attitude that allows late-comers in with minimal fuss and minimum price is something almost unheard of in other venues. Most clubs enjoy tacking on an extra pound to the entry price with each minute that passes. The Wardrobe, and forgive me for saying this yet again but I can't emphasise it enough, was just plain different. The warm, jumpy and upbeat tones of the jazz music were readily lapped up and absorbed by all who worked and went there.

Speaking to many like-minded students, it is clear that there is a general feeling of nostalgic warmth and a residual sadness now the Wardrobe has changed. Although never advisable to quote Satan, he seems to have a perceptive understanding of my feelings on the subject: "What though the field be lost? All is not lost." I encourage everyone to continue showing their support for The Wardrobe, its yester-year ways and perhaps, maybe, possibly, hopefully we might soon be enjoying a bit of that old Wardrobe magic in the years to come.

words/katie gilliland



appealed to acts to give the student population a privileged chance to see live music at a squeeze of an arena priced ticket. Yet, this sadly has not been enough to keep the place going in its known and loved form. The last live event there was way back on New Years Eve. The upstairs section has been refurbished, with the management seeming to pay a lot of attention, time and money to the new restaurant and bar. This is illustrated by the fact that the downstairs club is no longer being used frequently. Occasionally, Leeds Jazz hires it out, but this is not a regular event. Feeling the need to get a dose of that old Wardrobe magic, I tried to find out why one of this city's greatest clubs has abandoned its people for the banal restaurant and bar set-up. Speaking to staff at The Wardrobe, no one, not even the management, seemed totally clear on exactly when or even if they will be reopening the downstairs again. I was disheartened when one member of staff admitted to *Leeds Student* that the restaurant and bar were taking priority.

This writer feels a tear welling up, as, no doubt, there are tears sadly pouring down many of the soft Leeds student cheeks. It's hard to imagine such an integral part of

drown out some of that more edgy and original music that many students would enjoy, if they just knew what was out there. Similarly, the student body in Leeds is hugely diverse, with a microcosmic mix of ethnicities, religions, cultures and nationalities. With such a range of people, surely this city can give us the opportunity to explore the kind of music that constitutes real variety and multiple tastes rather than your standardised music sets.

However, it's not all doom and gloom. With such acts as Amy Winehouse performing in Leeds, it is clear we still have some grasp of the mainstream live music scene. Even though soul, funk and jazz do not fly high in the charts consistently, there is still a need and demand for the music. Regina Spektor is soon to visit Sheffield, which means those lucky ticket-wielding jazz lovers can also dash down and get a taste of the New York pianist's original tunes. Yet, somehow, I feel like I'm clutching at straws. It remains imperative to ask why The Wardrobe has closed and, perhaps, taking the heat of the Wardrobe management and heartless capitalists that run Oceana for a second, place some responsibility a lit-

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A COCK AND BULL STORY

CRUISE DID FOR THE COCKTAIL WHAT BOND DID FOR THE MARTINI, BUT HOW DID THE MIXED DRINK ORIGINATE, AND WHAT IS ITS HISTORY? LS2 INVESTIGATES

Watching TV last Sunday, I came across *Cocktail*. It features Tom Cruise and is fairly cult in its eighties-ness. You can tell the kind of film it is simply by looking at the opening credits. I have to admit that *Cocktail* is a guilty pleasure – I've even watched it before if I'm totally honest. I'm a film student, though, so I really am obliged to watch all sorts of films. That excuse almost sounded convincing...

The film got me thinking about where the term 'cocktail' came from, and how many cocktails there actually were in the world. Which seamlessly links to the body of my article about the history of the term 'cocktail' and cocktails themselves. For those who were hooked by the mention of the Tom Cruise film – that's pretty much it for that one. Sorry. On a quick

1803. That means it has been in use for over two hundred years. Where was the bi-centennial birthday celebration, I ask? The term was first used in a publication called the *Farmer's Cabinet*. This use was only recently discovered – which seems odd as, surely, someone must have known about it earlier. The *Farmer's Cabinet* appears to be a magazine which discussed agriculture. Unlike the cocktail, they gave it a sensible name which actually indicated the contents of the object. The cocktail is widely thought of as an American invention and ranks up there with Mickey Mouse and the light bulb. The OED (always a friend whilst essay writing) gives the definition of cocktail as "A drink, consisting of spirit mixed with a small quantity of bitters, some sugar, etc."

This description of a cocktail seems fairly vague – it could probably include just a vodka and coke which somehow seems wrong to me. But, equally, it needs to be open to include all the different types of cocktail. Difficult. To further confuse the cocktail, there is the mocktail – an alcohol-free mix. In total honesty, I think these are frankly fucking stupid. One of the major benefits of cocktail-drinking is the fact that a relatively small number of cocktails cause large amounts of drunkenness. Another major benefit is that cocktail bars (pubs which make cocktails don't count) usually use decent spirits. This means less of a hangover but also more expensive drinks. Everything balances.

But where did the term 'cocktail' actually come from? It has absolutely nothing obvious to do with spirits or bar keeping and when thought about cognitively is frankly ridiculous. The simple answer to this question would appear to be that no-one really knows. The origin of the word 'cocktail' is, at best, guesswork, and lots of people have taken lots of educated guesses. Other suggestions are just plain stupidity. A selection of both extremes is listed below:

That it is literally because a feather, a cock's tail, was put in mixed drinks to separate them from the non alcoholic beverages. This was so that teetotalers could tell the difference. I might not be a scientist but, surely, the taste would have been enough to make the distinction. Also, a feather hardly makes a drink appetising, and probably gives it a bad taste. It just isn't an umbrella. I think rubbish.

That it comes from the term 'cock tailings'. Apparently, back in the 1800s, taverns used to keep spirits in casks (it sounds dangerous to have that much alcohol to me). As the cask lowered, the flavour and strength weakened. So inn keepers drained the dregs of the cask out through stop cocks into a single cask and sold it on the cheap. Customers asked for 'cock tails' as they were the tailings from out of the cock of the casks. This sounds pretty believable – but, equally, pretty disgusting. I also find it difficult to believe cocktails started life as basically spirit slops.

That it comes from the phrase "to cock your tail", basically meaning to be happy because you're pissed. Possible but arguably simplistic. Also, it seems like a slightly obscure reference to being drunk. I think that it probably isn't true.

That it derived from a West African word for scorpion Kaketal – and that it was applied to the mix of drinks because they had a sting. I'm not a hundred per cent sure I like the idea of drinking something based on a scorpion's sting. So I choose to ignore this one.

That it is a corruption of the Latin word *decocita* which means distilled water. In my opinion, this makes little sense. Who would actually drink a cocktail that was just distilled water? Forget it.

That (I really am not joking) the term comes from a special beer made using a dead rooster amongst other ingredients. The beer was called cock-ale and could have been corrupted to cocktail. Whilst almost credible (the name corruption, not the dead rooster in the ale) I don't really understand how this would then have ended up being used for a

mixed spirit drink. I can only suggest that it is something to do with using random ingredients. I feel this is conjecture at best.

That it is based on a French wine drink called *coquetel* – apparently General la Fayette may have taken to America. Whilst possible, it is not that convincing in my eyes – how would a wine based mix become a spirit based drink?

Which – drum roll please – leads to what is often considered to be the most likely explanation. That the word cocktail comes from the French term *coquetier*, which was a type of glass used by Peychaud for serving drinks in New Orleans. Peychaud invented Peychaud bitters (a common cocktail ingredient) so this makes some sense. However, the dates don't really make sense as the term 'cocktail' was first mentioned about thirty years before Peychaud was mixing drinks. Difficult.

During my research, I found out that some people believe that the term 'cocktail' may have referred to a specific drink – now called the Old-Fashioned. The Old-Fashioned is, like many older cocktails, based on whiskey. Early cocktails were usually based on rum, whisky or gin – vodka, it would appear, is one of the new kids on the block.

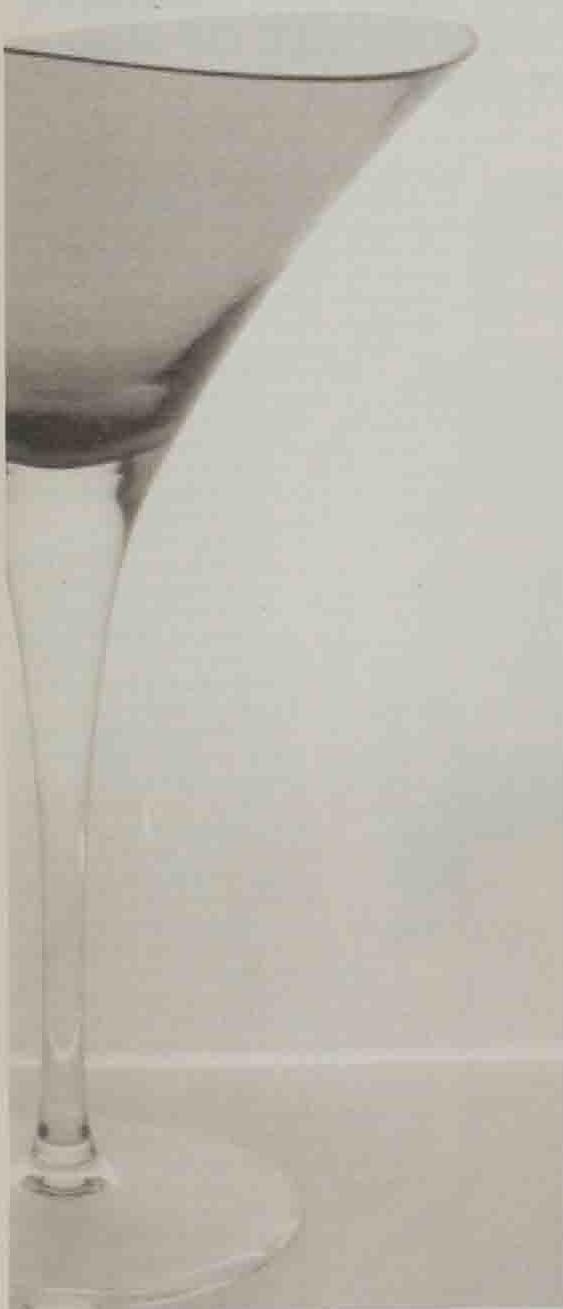
The search for the term 'cocktail' would appear to be fairly impossible as the most likely theory isn't really possible. In my view, this confusion has lots to do with the fact that cocktails are alcoholic. There was probably lots of alcohol involved around the time of the creation of the term. And alcohol always makes everything seem so blurred. I suspect it is probably a mix of all the proposed theories – a cocktail of an etymology. See what I did there?

So, having failed almost entirely to definitively find out where the term cocktail came from, it should be a simple job to rationalise the number of cocktails. Wrong. There seem to be boundless numbers – *Difford's* (arguably the definitive cocktail guide) list over one and a half thousand. Websites I've seen list thousands and thousands. These cocktails vary from the exotic to the fairly plain and often seem to be only ordered by the base spirit used.

The group which seems to be attempting to create some sort of order in this world is the IBA. This is the International Bartending Association, who seem to take cocktails very seriously. The IBA was founded in Torquay, of all places, in 1951. It sounds like an excuse for large amounts of drinking to me. They have created a definitive list of cocktails that are made for the World Cocktail Competition. I've already volunteered to be a judge. There hasn't been any response yet, though. The list given for the WCC contains sixty-five cocktails, which seems enough for anyone. They are split into four categories – Before Dinner, After Dinner, Long and Fancy. A strict limit on the number of sweet products used is placed in the Before Dinner category. The WCC is a yearly event.

For those who aren't quite ready to compete but interested, perhaps the best place to start is a cocktail course. Lots of people seem to offer them – one advert describes the course as "a cocktail shaker experience for Tom Cruise wannabes!". I'm not sure that many people want to be like Tom Cruise anymore, now that he's gone mental. Which, in a vaguely elliptical way, leads back to the opening. Having felt that finding out how the term cocktail came to exist would be easy (it wasn't) and that someone would have some official list of cocktails (kind of), I will admit I'm disappointed. I don't know what more I expected from an industry that thrives on getting other people pissed. I'll close with my two favourite cocktails and their locations in Leeds: a White Russian (or just about anything else) at Mojo, and a Hot Thing at Brown's. Try them: you might like them. If you don't, then I'm sure one of the other thousands of cocktails out there will be more to your taste.

words/matt kent



aside – if you like *Cocktail* – watch *Say Anything*. Not only is it mentioned in *Lost*, it represents the pinnacle of eighties awesomeness and has Peter Gabriel on the soundtrack. What more could you want? Back to cocktails.

The term 'cocktail' was apparently first used in

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THERE ARE SOME FILMS THAT ARE SO TERRIBLE THAT THEY HOLD AN INEXPLICABLE ATTRACTION: PERHAPS IT'S BAD CUTTING, PERHAPS IT'S DIALOGUE IS SO BIZARRE IT'D MAKE A DEAF PERSON CRINGE; PERHAPS (AND SURPRISINGLY FREQUENTLY) IT'S MAKING THE MISTAKE OF HIRING A WRESTLER AS YOUR LEAD ACTOR. LS2 INVESTIGATES...

There is something hypnotising about car crashes – we don't want to watch, but we are compelled by a kind of morbid curiosity to slow down and have a little look as we drive past them. Well, transferring that (in an entirely logical way) to films, there is something special about watching something so aesthetically and technically inept that it becomes hilarious. A quick glance over the IMDB's lowest rated titles illustrates this perfectly – who honestly has no curiosity about the plot of awful-sounding films like 'Santa Claus Conquers The Martians' or 'Howling II: Stirba – Werewolf Bitch'? How, then, can a small wander through a few films that feel like watching feature-length versions of 'Garth Marenghi's Darkplace' be resisted?

1975's fantastically named 'Death Race 2000', featuring the dynamite acting skills of both Sylvester Stallone and David Carradine

The plot centres on Frankenstein, an enormously popular driver in what is intended to be a futuristic blood sport.

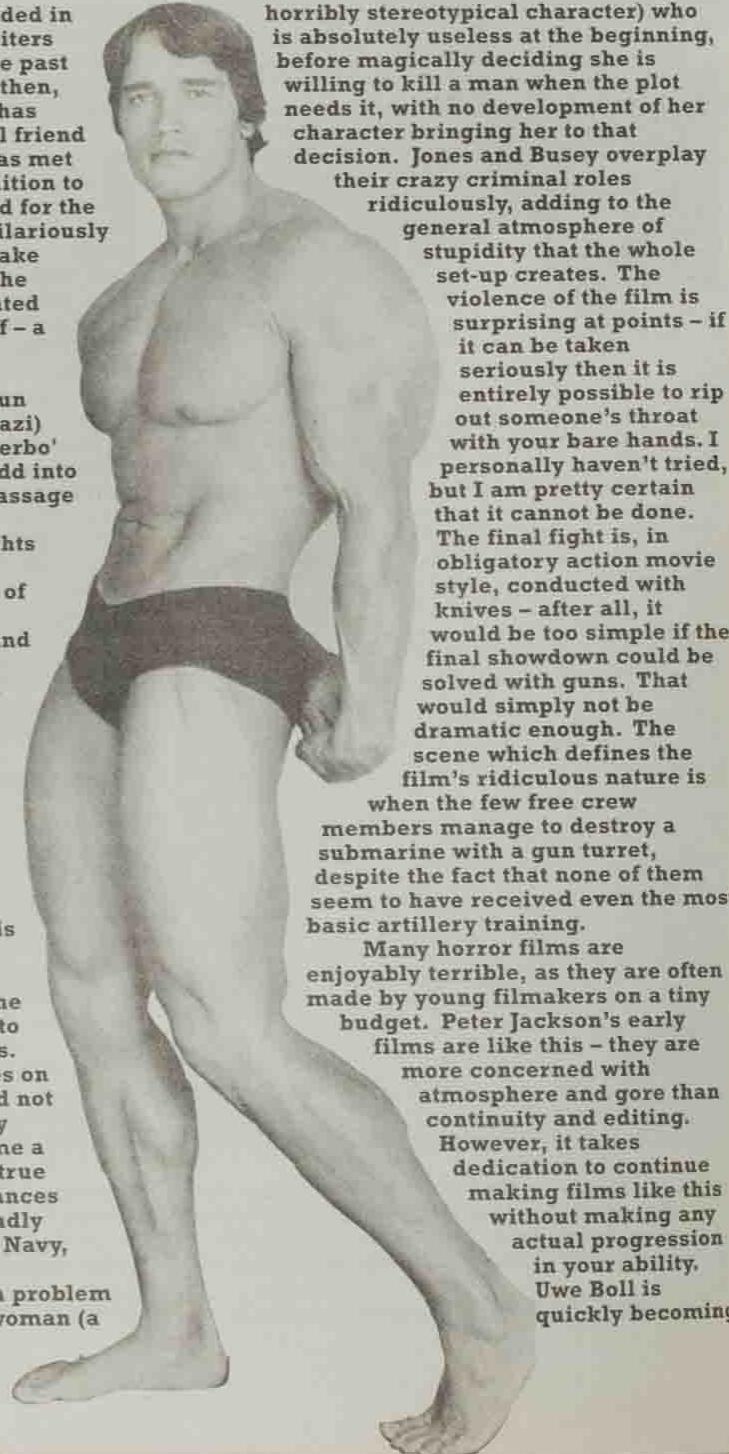
(Bill of 'Kill Bill' fame), makes no sense. Honestly. The plot centres on Frankenstein, a enormously popular driver in what is intended to be a futuristic blood sport. The drivers gain points for running over civilians during the Transcontinental Road Race across America (20 points for men, 30 for women, 40 for children, 70 for babies and 100 for the elderly), and the overall winner gets to meet Mr. President – the leader of the oppressive state. Obviously, the underground rebels decide to sabotage the race to bring down the system (yes, obviously – it makes total sense). Now for the problems with the plot. The virtually-robotic Frankenstein (who has lost most of his body in accidents) is joined by a young co-driver, who happens to be the daughter of the leader of the revolutionaries, and is intending to replace Frankenstein with an impostor to kill the President. However, about half way through the film (with no explanation) we find that Frankenstein – a personal friend of the president and previous winner of the race – also wants to bring down the system, by killing

the president with a grenade embedded in his fake hand. It is clear that the writers forgot that he had won the race in the past and could have killed the president then, let alone the fact that the character has been established as a close personal friend of the president and, presumably, has met him on numerous occasions. In addition to this fatally flawed plot, the traps laid for the drivers by the revolutionaries are hilariously bad. One of them involves putting fake 'diversion' signs up, and directing the road towards a tunnel entrance painted on a flat surface at the edge of a cliff – a ploy that's sure to fool professional drivers. The characters are also ridiculous, including Matilda the Hun (because the film really needed a Nazi) and Stallone's 'Machine Gun Joe Viterbo' (who runs over his own pit crew). Add into the mix a completely extraneous massage scene (breasts make movies good, apparently), one of the worst fist fights ever committed to the screen and a disappointingly infrequent number of bad death scenes for the random civilians on the roads of America, and you begin to see why 'Death Race 2000' is funny in its shockingly bad way.

Stepping into more modern cinema, it is impossible to talk about entertainingly bad films without mentioning the legendary Steven Seagal. 'Under Siege' is a great example of how to make a terrible film with a big budget, in despite of a cast including Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey. Seagal is Casey Rybeck – a cook who (conveniently) happens to be out of the way when terrorists take over the military ship he works on in order to steal the nuclear weapons it carries. Anyone wondering how a cook takes on an entire ship full of terrorists need not worry – he is, of course, an ex-Navy SEAL, who (for some reason) became a cook after punching an officer. In true Seagal style, he is given ample chances throughout the film to say really badly scripted things, like "You're in the Navy, remember? It's not a job, it's an adventure!" Continuity is a bit of a problem for this film as well, with a token woman (a

horribly stereotypical character) who is absolutely useless at the beginning, before magically deciding she is willing to kill a man when the plot needs it, with no development of her character bringing her to that decision. Jones and Busey overplay their crazy criminal roles ridiculously, adding to the general atmosphere of stupidity that the whole set-up creates. The violence of the film is surprising at points – if it can be taken seriously then it is entirely possible to rip out someone's throat with your bare hands. I personally haven't tried, but I am pretty certain that it cannot be done. The final fight is, in obligatory action movie style, conducted with knives – after all, it would be too simple if the final showdown could be solved with guns. That would simply not be dramatic enough. The scene which defines the film's ridiculous nature is when the few free crew members manage to destroy a submarine with a gun turret, despite the fact that none of them seem to have received even the most basic artillery training.

Many horror films are enjoyably terrible, as they are often made by young filmmakers on a tiny budget. Peter Jackson's early films are like this – they are more concerned with atmosphere and gore than continuity and editing. However, it takes dedication to continue making films like this without making any actual progression in your ability. Uwe Boll is quickly becoming



famous as one of the worst contemporary directors - a kind of Ed Wood for modern times, who has given up on even trying to make good films. We have him to thank for 'BloodRayne' (voted 77th worst film on IMDB), whose sequel looms like an impending meth's hangover, its soon to be released sequel, and for 'House of the Dead' - in which an island rave turns out to be infested by zombies. These films do exactly what you expect, making you laugh when you are supposed to be scared and shocked - but hey, that's what we want really, isn't it? Unfortunately for Uwe, as they were never intended to be taken seriously, they lack the ability to amuse to the same extent as films that are meant to be serious.

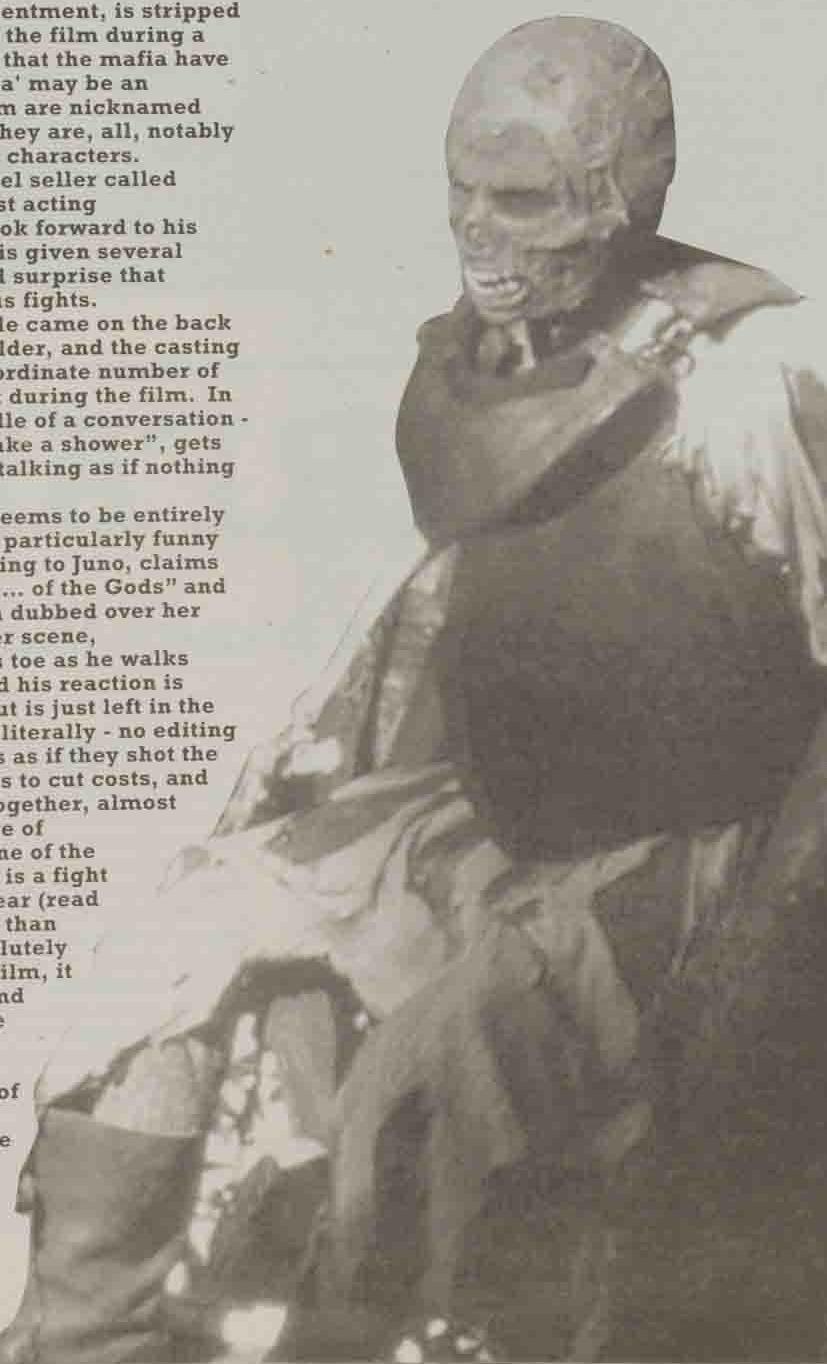
The film that probably sums up everything that can be done wrong in making a film is Arnold Schwarzenegger's debut film, 'Hercules in New York', in which a young, wilful and disobedient Hercules leaves Mount Olympus to see the world. The first thing you notice as the credits roll is the laughable theme music over the credits - probably put at the beginning of the film in the hope that the audience will forget the names of everyone involved by the end. The writing is bad for a number of reasons. Firstly, the research that went into the Greek Gods of Mount Olympus must have been non-existent, as we are left with Greek deities like Hercules and Zeus living with Roman ones like Mercury and Pluto. Secondly, the dialogue is horrible and with so many laugh-out-loud moments written with the intention of being serious (some classics include "You have striked Hercules!" and "Bucks? Doe? What is all this zoological talk about male and female animals?"). Hercules, due to Juno's resentment, is stripped of his powers by the end of the film during a weight-lifting competition that the mafia have bet heavily on. Well, 'Mafia' may be an exaggeration as two of them are nicknamed 'Fat-lips' and 'Nitro', and they are, all, notably bad at playing threatening characters. Hercules befriends a pretzel seller called Pretzie - probably the worst acting performance in history (look forward to his soliloquy at the end), who is given several hundred shots of overacted surprise that permeate Hercules' various fights. Schwarzenegger's first role came on the back of his career as a body builder, and the casting makes sense due to the inordinate number of times he takes off his shirt during the film. In one scene, he - in the middle of a conversation - suddenly says "I need to take a shower", gets half naked and carries on talking as if nothing had happened.

The method of filming seems to be entirely based on one take - in one particularly funny scene Nemesis, while talking to Juno, claims that "I can't go against the... of the Gods" and the correct line is not even dubbed over her verbal fumbling. In another scene, Schwarzenegger stubs his toe as he walks away from the camera, and his reaction is clearly out of character, but is just left in the film regardless. There is - literally - no editing to speak of in this film, it's as if they shot the absolute minimum of takes to cut costs, and just threw what they had together, almost bypassing the editing stage of production completely. One of the best sequences of the film is a fight between Hercules and a bear (read 'man in a bear suit' rather than bear). While this has absolutely no point in the plot of the film, it even cuts between night and day indiscriminately - like no-one involved in the production realised that some kind of consistency of lighting would make the scene less laughable. To be fair, though, I suppose that Arnold Schwarzenegger fighting a man in a bear suit is actually intrinsically

funny. One of the most worrying things about the film, as a whole, is the fact that it genuinely seems as though it was meant to be a serious film. Although Schwarzenegger's original soundtrack has been put onto the DVD, he was originally dubbed out, and the script does have jokes written into it. Like the long conversation between Pretzie and Hercules about a Greek man called Apollo who was really ugly. Needless to say the points where the film tries to be funny fall flat, but the vast majority of it is hilarious, simply due to the ridiculously cheap special effects (Zeus' thunder in the horribly designed Olympus) and the general bad quality of the entire project. The whole film is summed up in the finale, as Hercules, Atlas and Sampson (it seems that the writers believed that both Christian and Roman mythology were, in fact, part of Greek myth) take on some gangsters, quickly proceeding the worst designed car chase scene in history.

There are so many absolutely awful movies out there, and it is certainly worth trying to check a few of them out for a cheap, drunken laugh. Talking to people about them, some of the titles that have come up are - in addition to the ones above - the remake of 'Rollerball' (featuring Slipknot for some unknown reason), 'Critters' (alien hedgehogs attack earth), 'Tremors', 'Camelot the musical', and 'The Muppets Wizard of Oz'. Generally, if you are not up for watching a serious film then these come highly recommended for a laugh.

words/ simon gillett



IMDB's bottom 10/

15: Troll 2

14: Unaccompanied Minors

Judging from the title alone, and the half-memories left of my own misappropriated childhood, I'm imagining this film contains scenes of teenagers sitting up late, drinking too much and falling asleep to cheap, Channel 5 'erotica'.

13: The Hillz

The title here offers up the possibility of a group of children failing to learn to spell, before being hunted down by the world's scenery. If we're very lucky, the hills become literally 'alive with the sound of music' and eat someone. But, judging from its placing in the table, I'm doubting it would include something that original.

12: Manos: The Hands of Fate

11: 3 Ninjas: High Noon at Mega Mountain

10: Love in Paris

9: Chairman of the Board

"A surfer becomes the head of a major company," runs the tagline of the film. What possible hilarities will ensue? Perhaps 'Edison' will find himself helplessly incapable of paperwork? Perhaps the stress of the job, and the memories of times gone by, will push him into an early suicide as the film degrades into a gritty and strangely harrowing account of his family's struggles to cope without him? Perhaps you'll get bored and leave half-way through the first hour. Looking at the tagline, my bet is that the PR company who came up with the slogan did the latter.

8: Car 54, Where Are You?

7: SuperBabies: Baby Geniuses 2

"A group of smart-talking toddlers find themselves at the center of a media mogul's experiment to crack the code to baby talk. The toddlers must race against time for the sake of babies everywhere." Yes, because adults' growing ability to converse with their young is something that is intrinsically threatening to all right-minded folks everywhere.

6: Santa with Muscles

"An evil millionaire (Hulk Hogan) gets amnesia and then believes [sic] that he is Santa Claus."

I'm still trying to understand how this got into the bottom 15.

5: Araf

4: From Justin to Kelly

"A lonely, sexually repressed man. A depressed woman. A summer camp. On this fateful night, they will meet... and their hearts will become one." A spin-off of American Idol, starring two ex-contestants.

3: Going Overboard

2: Bottoms Up

1: Crossover

"A naturally talented basketball player, Noah Cruise is determined to become a doctor using his basketball scholarship," is the blurb for what seems to have easily stepped into the plate of 'Worst Film of All Time'. Personally, I can't see why.

CLUBS

drum n bass/

BASS TO THE PLACE

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It's business as usual at Valve with the legendary soundsystem out in force

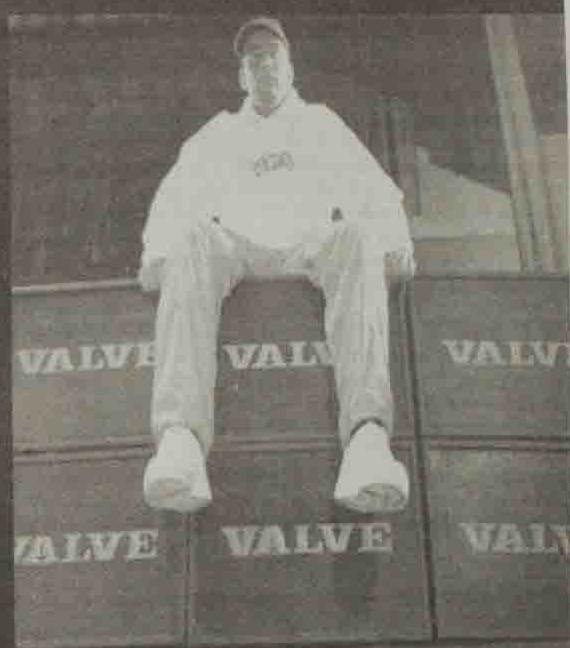
Once my ears have recovered from the first blasts of the Valve Soundsystem, there is an air of understatement. The people are clothed as casually as can be, whilst the venue itself is lacking in the usual glitter or tinsel. What does grab your attention is the two huge sets of speakers either side of the stage and the collective on stage; the DJ, bouncing up and down hyperactively between the decks and the MCs chatting I-have-no-idea-what but looking like they mean it.

This is as it should be for a drum n' bass night, and when you have two of the biggest names in the business meeting there isn't much need for decoration. It's the opposite of that saying about polishing a turd. With Ram Records comes a label that has run for 15 years and put out many of the biggest releases, kept some of the biggest names and generally done pretty well for itself. Combine this with the Valve soundsystem, the loudest custom-built drum n' bass soundsystem in the

world, and you have a fairly nifty combination of quality and quantity.

The night itself was packed out and it was good to see that beyond the usual sweaty, hyperactive moshpit there to see the Ram collective, the other rooms generally managed to hold their own. Mine was blessed with the liquid sounds of Bryan G and Pulse kept it local with the artists from Radio Frequency 88.1. In Stylus, Andy C combined the new with the old to effect, as shown by his mix of 'Flamenco' and Moving Fusion's classic 'Black Hole', whilst MC Fearless provided the vocals. After Subfocus, Lemon D and Dillinja made the most out of the bass on their own soundsystem, playing a fair few of their own productions for the final slot. Then the lights turned on and despite the continued dancing there was a feeling of everything coming to an abrupt end. Just a shame it had to be at three...

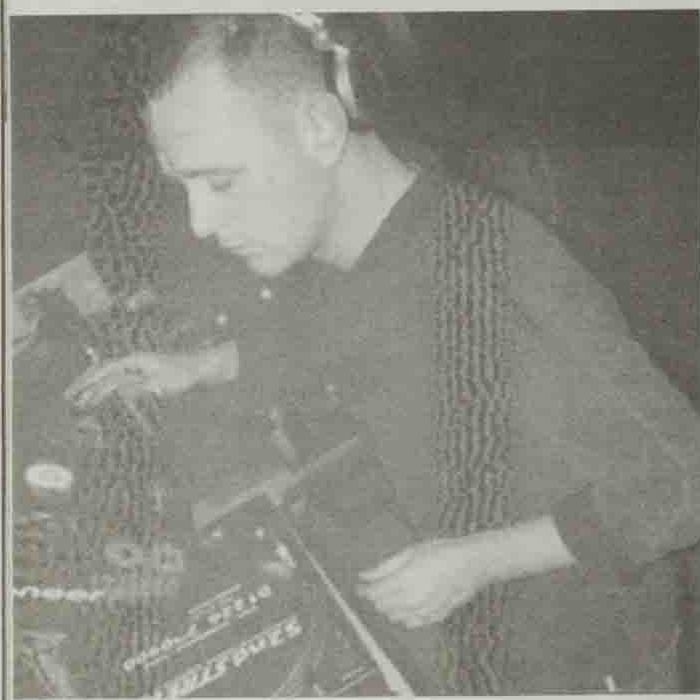
words/john owens



dance/

TRIBAL WARFARE

Tribal Sessions bangs the drums...



Not the 30 degree start to a night I'm sure our friend Tania is used to in Ibiza, but the very antithesis; very nearly missing our taxi trying to stand up on the slush, which by the way was this week's excuse against the bus. We arrived, queued briefly before being told that Tania Vulcano had been replaced by Jose De Divina, not a great start to the night! We entered the "Boutique", or the second room as I prefer to call it, and caught the end of the Chris Kitchen set - a tasty remix of the Audio Bully's song "there's things I haven't told you, I go out late at night..." (a less tasty attempt of finding the song name) being my highlight of the set. The main room was still quite quiet so we thankfully stuck around to hear my set of the night from Toni Jarvis - some grimy tunes - and all played with a smile! The standard search for the backroom resulted in a newfound upstairs tunnel area from which we chilled to some live music. After a rest, the main room (it certainly isn't a basement?) was looking a bit livelier, so we

danced to the end of the Greg Vickers set. Having seen him a few Tribal Sessions ago I was less impressed but there was still a decent mix of beats. We spent a long time standing to the start of Jose De Divina's set - for me so dull I truly considered crawling under those "fatal if not sober" platforms for a nap. Come to think of it, I'm pretty sure he's the one who fell asleep with the repeat button left on. There's nothing quite like the Mission toilets for a brief yet deep discussion with someone random, (which this week by the way was on aftershave), and I found the urinals (right at the back if you want your willy wonka on display to the unsuspecting girl searching for the fag machine). We returned, tired and smoky, as is usual with Mission (aren't those gigantic pipes around the ceiling supposed to be ventilation?) yet having had a good night, not much on previous Sessions nights but definitely something I will stick to. House with a difference.

words/samuel vickers

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Curiouser and curiouster...

Gay? Sick of all those cheesy nights at Mission dancing to Shania fucking Twain? Well, voila; the Union LGBT's termly clubnight. Finally, a gay night with music that doesn't make you want to drink your poppers in despair.

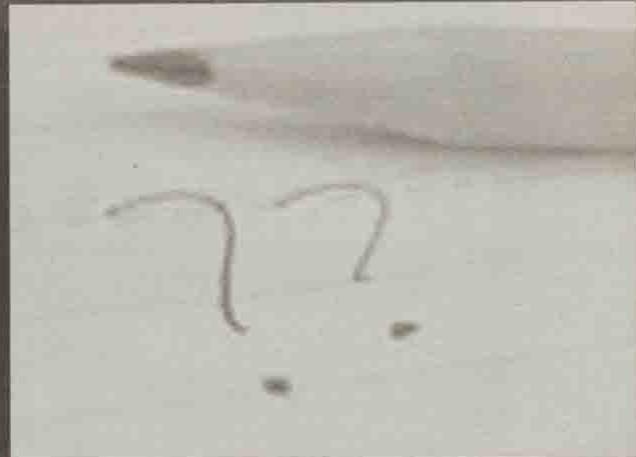
And yes, what rather excellent music it was. We were treated to the big-boned The Gossip, lesbian titans The Organ, and inevitably but joyously Madonna (Get into the Groove- obviously her best work). The godlike DJs were somewhat pissed and happy to take obscure requests- overjoyed in fact when it was something they loved... I requested New Young Pony Club and came away with DJ-saliva on my hand after one had kissed it in overenthusiastic appreciation. Mmm. Ladytron were lobbed into the mix as were the fab CSS, but camp staples such as Nelly Furtado were occasionally added to the electro/ rock/ new wave eclecticism to increase the necessary pop quotient.

By the time the opening bars of Peaches' Fuck

The Pain Away had smacked us across the ears the dancefloor was ready to go berserk for its legendary 'sucking on my titties' opening line. And Nancy Boy by Placebo cranked things up for all the crispy-attired blokes sipping cosmopolitans. With Mook playing host this month, its debauchery-inducing 2 for 1 cocktail offer proved dangerously irresistible. The rather stylish venue was a definite improvement on Mine in the Union, with plush sofa-y bits on which to recline decadently. The only drawback is the minuscule dancefloor where you run the risk of knocking yourself out on a badly placed pillar while throwing extravagant shapes.

And the music certainly made everyone dance with gay abandon. While we all love a little bit of cheese occasionally, we need a balanced musical diet goddammit, and Curious is here to provide it.

words/ vivien king macdona



the rant/

So, it's a Saturday, I'm doing the Otley run and I'm well on my way to drunkenness. The theme is Music Legends and I have borrowed a spectacular Missy Elliott style costume. It consists of unfathomably large, white trackies, matching jacket with Adidassys arm-stripes, bandana with a carefully balanced baseball cap on top, enormous gold hoop earrings (from Elizabeth Duke at Argos no less) and copious amounts of bling. I think I look darn good. Others disagree; I arrange for my homies to pop a cap in their ass.

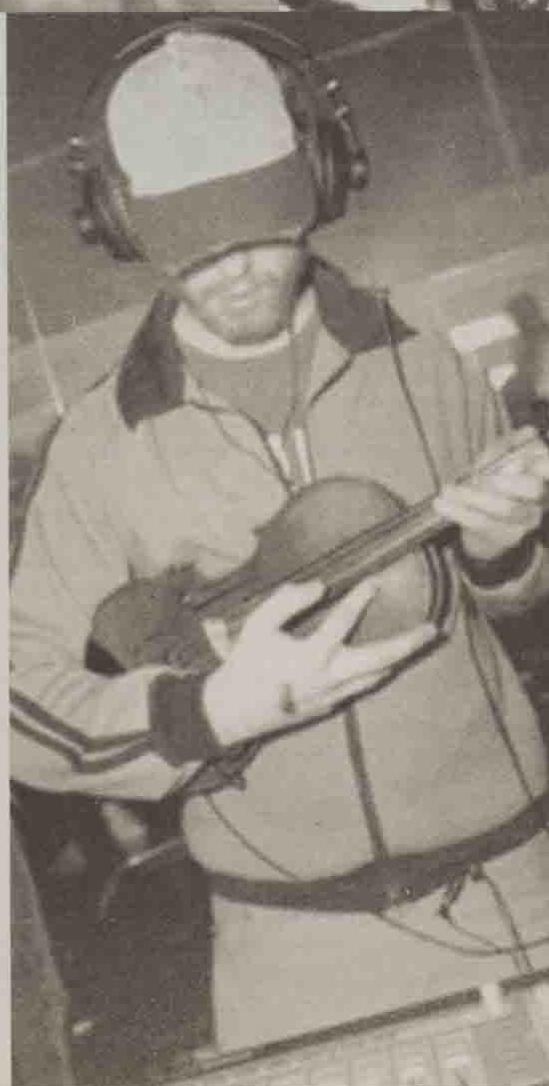
But yes there I am, suitably tongue in cheek, parading the streets with Madonna, Johnny Cash and Kiss amongst others. Every pub welcomes us with open arms to spend our hard-earned spondoolies on their beverages.

UNTIL we arrive at one particular establishment on Otley Road which shall remain nameless. I swagger through the entrance, following the two Meg Whites and Adam Ant, until I hear a gruff holler from the bouncer summoning me back outside. "Sorry love, no tracksuit bottoms allowed". What? You've got to be kidding. I'm not seriously wearing them. I'm on the Otley Run. You know, that little known Leeds-based pub crawl, you might not have heard of it... "Makes no difference to me, read the sign - no tracksuit bottoms". It's IRONIC. This is not my usual attire. Would you prefer it if I took them off?...

Unfortunately this offer (which I am, by now, quite happy to fulfil) is not accepted. My entire posse and I are unceremoniously ejected. I'm not a happy gangster, or at least not until we get to the next pub.

But I can't help imagining that if I were a real chav how bad I would have felt if my own seriously-worn kecks were being so meanly dissed. It wouldn't happen if I really was Missy Elliott. Word.

words/ vivien king macdona



bhangra/

Banging Bhangra leaves a a fresh taste

Upon being asked by the promoter if I was familiar with Bhangra music, I'm guessing the best response wasn't "um, I like Punjabi MC". The silence spoke volumes. Desiology, the new monthly South Asian music night at Mint Club plays a mix of bhangra remixes and Desi beats. The crowd were the most enthusiastic I'd seen in a long while. Despite the initially half-empty surroundings there were already people on the dance-floor, most noticeably one tireless couple who didn't stop to pause for breath. As already established I know very little about south Asian music and this night served as the perfect introduction. There was a good blend of tradition and modern remixes. At about midnight the stage was cleared of jiggling bodies to make way for a drumming outfit who played energetically along with the DJ. A bit bizarrely as everyone was dancing, a tray of sushi was passed around, tasty but not exactly expected. This is one club night that may just be worth getting excited about. Compared with the huge amounts of Gatecrasher/ Oceana style nights that spring up weekly, Desiology offers good music with an unpretentious crowd. The £10 entry price is hardly student friendly but this is hopefully a temporary thing. I'm in danger of sounding a bit worthy here but considering Leeds' cultural diversity it's great that our club nights are finally starting to reflect the variety. Give Desiology a go, especially if you're as clueless about bhangra as me.

words/ sophie barnes

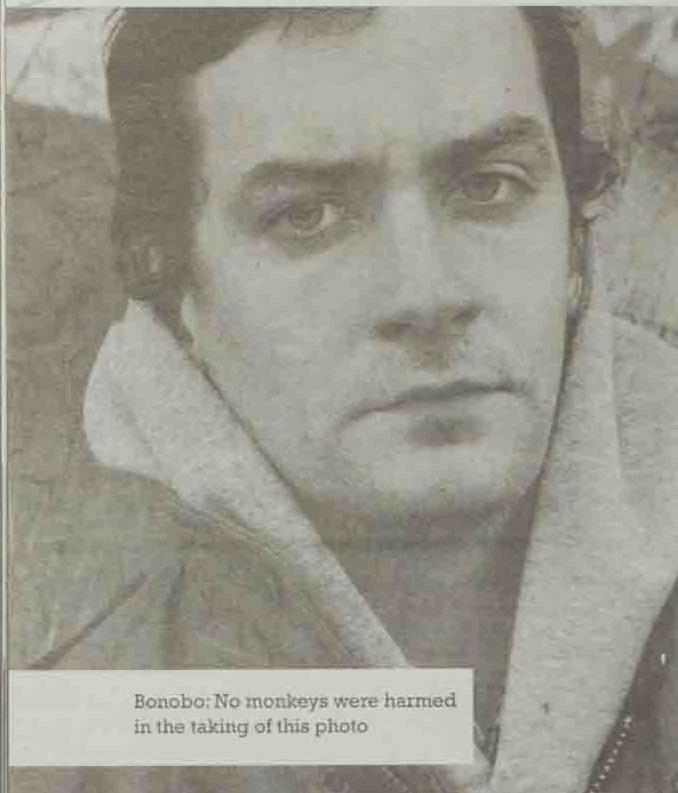
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Bonobo: No monkeys were harmed in the taking of this photo

DUKE SPECIAL the faversham

Sunday 11th February

The night begins with a self-confessed 'bit of country' with a snatch of 'Western' in the inexplicably named **Loudmouth Soup**. No prizes will be won for originality, but it is nice to see a non-ironic country shirt, and the use of pedal steel, particularly in 'The Boatman', is highly effective.

The beauty of **Stephanie Dosen**'s voice, ranging vaguely between Emmylou Harris and Alison Goldfrapp, seems to be competing for centre stage with the arrestingly questionable sense of humour with which she punctuates her slot. Alas, if her music were only weaker, I would suggest a comedy career; in either case, I have never witnessed such a high banter-to-music ratio. She claims to have three testicles. The string arrangements are very pretty.

Immediately demanding the indefinite loan of our hearts by performing the set opener whilst standing on his piano stool, wobbling uncertainly and looking justifiably terrified, Duke Special is captivating. His lyrics reliably witty, his songs reliably tragic and his hair reliably dreadlocked, he takes his audience to the heights and depths of his own world, and to the extremes of the fantasies through which we all conduct our own existences.

The show is, to this merit, never dull, by virtue of its theatrical fluctuation between large, Vaudevillian musical theatre ('I Let You Down', 'Don't Breathe') and disarming glimpses of what lies beneath it ('No Cover Up'), flitting wildly through everything in between, including the two realisations of the Duke's perhaps unsurprising ability to write the world's best pop singles, 'Freewheel' and 'Last Night I Nearly Died'. Elsewhere, an affected, intimate cover of Elliott Smith's 'Baby Britain' is a moving highlight.

Returning to the stage for a rare full-band encore, he promptly leaves it again three songs later to close the night with an unplugged 'John Lennon Love' from

the middle of the crowd. As it happens, this may be the only time that a lot of people get to see anything at all due to the Faversham's woeful capability at dealing with large audiences, which is rather unfortunate as Duke Special's world is as much about visuals as it is beautiful songs. (Chip Bailey's mastery of bells, whistles, cheese graters and egg whisks is, by now, well known, although everyone seems to be bowing their guitars these days.)

Very few acts give the impression of working quite so hard, of being quite so in love with their audience or of having quite so much fun as Duke Special. We file out of the venue slightly in love with him, too. (8)

words/ramzy awakeel

BONOBO the faversham

Wednesday 7th February

When I turned round from the bar of the Faversham, the floor was suddenly packed with jostling bodies and I realised the band had quietly assembled onstage and started playing the first song. This is the understated beauty of Bonobo, master of the serene downtempo ambient sound. There is no showboating or pretension but an intricate instrumental synergy that speaks for itself. They played "The Sicilian", "Ketto", and "the Noctuary" where haunting melodic sequences accumulate to create a complex resonance which swells to a perfectly-timed crescendo. An obvious highlight was the achingly beautiful "If you stayed Over" with the rich smoky tones of Kathrin de Boer cascading over the layers of sonic strata. This was an improvement on the album track where Fink provides more subdued vocals.

There was a modest stirring of the audience to some of the more lively tunes like "Nightlife", but generally the dance floor was not being put to its intended use. This is the drawback of the chilled out set in this kind of venue; the vibrant sprawling soundscapes were a more appropriate backdrop for a festival than a dense sweating crowd in a dark room. Simon Green's stage presence was unassuming, he addressed the crowd only to rouse their sympathy for the heroic drummer who was playing with a broken foot. The encore was the sleek moody "Between the lines", followed by "On your Marks" which climaxed in an explosion of drums and sax before the track was dropped in at the last minute and the band played out to rapturous applause. Overall, a transcendental experience which only makes one excited about what to expect in days to come. (8)

words/abi 'pun-queen' green

THE NOISETTES the cockpit

Wednesday 7th February

Arriving in Leeds on the same night as the not only the NME rave tour, but Bonobo at The Faversham AND the England game might have been a problem, but although The Noisettes were only in the smaller room at the Cockpit (this has happened with the last three gigs I've been to here, do the promoters not like the main room anymore?), they manage to get a full crowd and they don't disappoint. Beautiful soaring lyrics, floating guitars and harmonies; everything you would expect from a folk band in 'The Count of Monte

Cristo', juxtaposed with powerful, angular, shouty, fast indie rock of 'Don't Give up'; The Noisettes gig had it all. Lead singer Shingai Shoniwa, having only arrived at the venue a few minutes before going on stage after doing "sit-ups on the train with a sixty year old man", was confident and content with her position as front woman. With an incredible vocal range and styles of singing she has the upbeat personality and energy perfect to make indie music sound brilliant and exciting. Often compared with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, The Noisettes manage to use this accessible sound and combine it with discordant guitar and soft harmonies throughout the songs ('Bridge to Canada'), and although they didn't get the crowd dancing very much, everyone seemed to be enjoying the show. Shingai's crowd interaction; a tendency to use the amplifiers as a climbing frame, and singing to the crowd in the encore without a microphone received the loudest applause. Dan Smith (guitar and backing vocals) and Jamie Morrison (drums) were quite content leaving the antics to Shingai. They remained in the background, throwing at us some very skilled and heavy guitar and drum beats. They created a full, powerful sound lacking in...for example... Franz Ferdinand. An interesting band dynamic; two hairy men and an enigmatic front woman with tribal paintings on her face and a glittery t-shirt -fitted perfectly with the Jekyll and Hyde music style. (8)

words/tess eaton

preview/

The top tip to look out for in the coming weeks is undoubtedly the return of Charlotte Hatherley. With her eagerly awaited second solo album 'The Deep Blue' on the horizon, the former Ash Guitarist stops off in Leeds to blow the roof off the cockpit with her delightful brand of indie/punk/pop on Thursday 1st March and you'll thank your lucky stars that there are a handful of tickets left, get them while you can.

Other things that you'd be mad to miss out on are:

Tuesday 20th February
Faversham

DJ Vadim Presents...
ONESELF ft. yarah brava, blu rum13, and dj woody
Kidkanevil (live)
doors 9-2, £7

Wednesday 21st February
Faversham

Union of Knives with support from Shiny Toy Guns
doors 7.30 pm £5

Friday 23rd February
Hifi Club

The Headhunters
doors 7pm, £10

Tuesday 28th February
The met

Little Man Tate
doors 7pm tickets from jumbo/crash

albums/

THE HOURS

'Narcissus Road'

A&M records

A case study in missed opportunities and in trying too hard, *Narcissus Road* stumbles along with earnest intent but somehow ends up tired, older, disillusioned and precisely where it began. Granted, there is a certain romance inherent to this very state, but the overwhelming impression is of desperation, of boats missed, of throwing money at a dead horse and of mixed metaphor.

Were *Hope of the States* to be reincarnated and watered down with the second *Killers* album, the result would not be dissimilar to this: chronically and fatally faux-passionate, wearing very little on its sleeve but a lot in its mixing desk and managerial team. Comprising a couple of ex-session musicians for various legendary and semi-legendary British bands, *The Hours* sound as though their record was made by someone with an excellent grasp of how to make (and attractively package) a rock album but no soul, no point. So obsessed are they with the 'we care' tagline that the music comes across as contrived and puerile, the affirmation of a point that no-one made in the first place. This is particularly frustrating as there are occasional flashes of – if not brilliance, then certainly potential – such as the (ironically) soaring 'Icarus', the Music-esque 'Murder and Suicide' and the overindulgent but sporadically pretty closer 'Let Me Breathe'. But these are all too little, too late: the clunky, misjudged lyrical palate leaves one with a taste in one's mouth (as desperation takes hold, or – more likely – boredom), smacking as it does of self-congratulation, pretension and false drive, such as first single 'Ali In The Jungle' which is aggressively excited about something it has forgotten to disclose (although a wry nod to 'Ludwig van' earns a bonus point) or the sanctimonious title track. Terrifyingly, this is perhaps vaguely what it would sound like if *Oasis* secretly adored *The Feeling*.

Still, it is a well-made, competent record and, from a distance, it might have something to say. Up close, however, all it offers are half-remembered and half-understood sentiments. If you want something real, buy the *Bloc Party* album. If, however, you're after a cheap hit of blind "passion" to dull the senses and satisfy an easily placated need for shallow emotion then this will do the trick. (4)

BUCK BROTHERS
'Me'
Back2forward records

words/ramzy alwakeel

Buck Brothers: they've got lipstick and pink shoes on the album cover, a male drummer called Alice and they're pretty famous in the U.S. and Canada although they're from London. This album, entitled 'ME', is boring college rock at its most dire; all in the same key with a monotone singer. 'Girls, skirts, boots, bikes'... not only for the title but also the song, is the worst thing I've experienced for while. A bad start to a review, but I'm not planning on getting any nicer. Maybe if "Predatory Power Pop Punk" is your thing, you'll like it, but for the rest of us, this is one to avoid.

Here's some definitions to get to the heart of what this band think they are:

Predatory: *adjective*, preying, exploitative, excessive greed, selfish.

Power: *noun*, energy, possession of control.

Pop: *noun*, music of general appeal to teenagers; a bland watered-down version of rock'n'roll.

Punk: *Adjective*, of very poor quality; *Slang*, A young person, especially a member of a rebellious counterculture group.

How could this get worse? They've decided to try and break a world record, performing the highest number of gigs ever in London in a day... 30 gigs, between 11am and 11pm on the 5th of March, and guess what, you could be there! For all of the gigs! (definition: *Gig*: nautical, an object that whirls. Maybe it could be fun?)

Finally, one last gibe, their website claims: "A sound that your mother wouldn't openly approve of but would secretly sing to herself on the quiet". I really, really, don't think she would. (1)

words/tess eaton

shameless free advert/

O2 UNDISCOVERED

As an appetite for unsigned music becomes ever more noticeable, mobile giants O2 launch their second annual search for the latest and greatest unsigned act in the UK. Last year's winners Jag (below) went on to release a single with Polydor and are currently making their way up the ranks of the London Ska/punk scene so this year expectations are high and the rewards larger.

Any band in the UK can sign up, simply upload a track to the online library for consideration from the panel of industry experts who select a top

10 shortlist to be put forward for a final held in London later in the year.

Additional A&R workshops are also available in major towns and cities and visit Leeds on the 17th February visit the website for more details. Even if you don't win, there's still an opportunity for millions of O2 customers and unsigned music fans to listen to your music and to have industry experts cast their opinions and offer their advice.

www.o2undiscovered.co.uk



singles/

Guitars that have probably been nicked off a Half Man Half Biscuit song help 'Romantic Type' (Dance To The Radio) prove that The Pigeon Detectives are better than Little Man Tate. This, one senses, is the kind of thing that matters to them, so, er, well done. Next stop The View, eh?



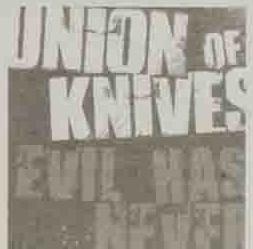
Badly Drawn Boy used to live up to his reputation; his songs were quirky, interesting, and touching, and his voice, though

limited, had a lovelorn quality that matched them. Now, he does tired crap like 'A Journey from A to B' (EMI), a song so in thrall to 'classic songwriting' that it forgoes its right to have its own personality, hiding behind tedious pianos and a man muttering of eternity – he sounds like he's still trying, but his ideas left him long ago.



A similar problem affects Willy Mason's 'Save Myself' (Radiate); the verses are passionate, albeit not-entirely-unfamiliar, griping about The State Of The Modern USA, and would have been good enough to carry the song on their own. Unfortunately, he's put on a wretched chorus where he mutters "Baby won't you come, baby won't you come" ad nauseam in the over-polished cod-soulful style of Chris Martin informing you that he's gonna "sing it owwwwt", so he can get back in the fucking queue.

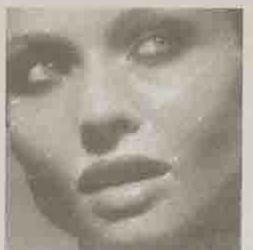
Union of Knives' 'Evil Has Never' (Relentless) is a functional bit of electro-indie-pop with designs on being either Depeche Mode or Swedish. It's big, buzzy, and sterile as painkillers. It's the music of Captain as played by some not very interesting androids. Maybe you have to see them live or something.



You can imagine someone saying that about I Was A Cub Scout, too. 'Pink Squares' (Abeano) sounds like it's aching for an adventure in some city or other – the drums are positively sparkling, the guitars and synths are spiralling and dreamlike, but the song itself is nothing like as interesting, with a chorus that stumbles badly over its own earnestness and takes the wind clean out of their sails. They await a loving owner; they find them, then things can get exciting.

In conclusion: Sophie Ellis-Bextor wins. As she often does, 'Catch You' (Fascination) lives on brutality. The beat is Strictly Come Deathwish. When she trills

"Why waste your energy?" it reminds you of Kylie, assuming Kylie lived under a volcano and was, y'know... EVIL. "Run to where you want! Run to where you want! I AM GONNA FIII-IND YOU!" And she is. She's got arms like the Humber Bridge, with gigantic tungsten claws where her hands should be. Her hair is Kevlar, her lips are samurai swords, and, as the video amply demonstrates, she can run forever, EVEN WHEN WEARING HEELS. 'Catch You' is a beast, and comfortably the best thing that's been in this column all year. If you persist in choosing Mika over this, then it's gonna be a lot more than just the kittens that get it.



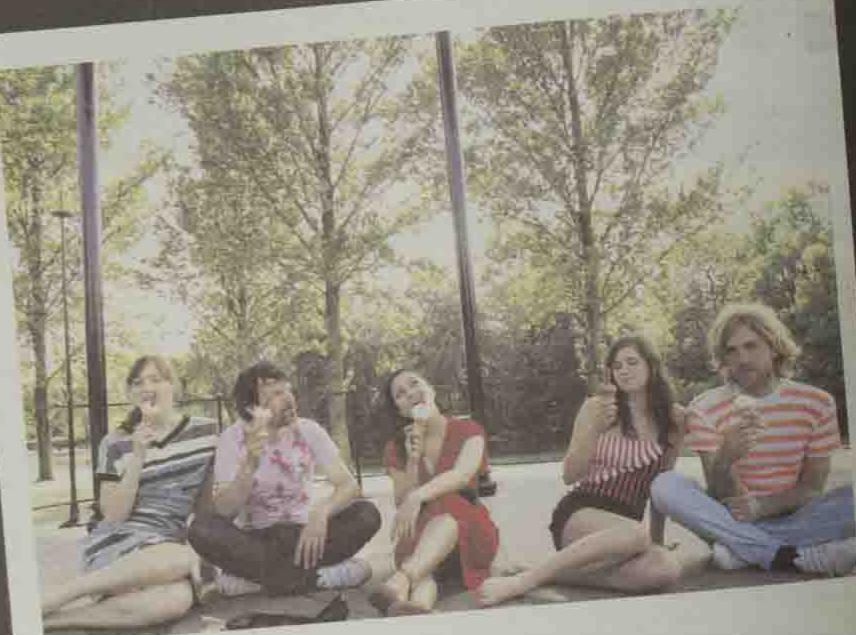
words/william b. swygart

WELCOME TO THE NEW RAVE

“Tahita freely admits that the band came up with the name partly because they thought that ‘I Heart NYPC’ would look good on a t-shirt”



**LS2 CATCHES UP WITH
NEW YOUNG PONY
CLUB AHEAD OF THEIR
GIG AT THE MET ON
FEB 7TH AS PART OF
THE NME INDIE RAVE
TOUR**



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The first thing to say about New Young Pony Club is that, if I'm honest, prior to this interview and the gig is a good song and they all look lovely enough but I was n't what you'd call a fan. It's for these reasons I didn't really know what to expect when interviewing the band, or in this case just lead singer Tahita, who was to my relief, as charming and likeable as you could hope for in her glistening purple eyebrow makeup and jazzy attire. By the end of the interview I could definitely tell that Tahita not only knows what she's talking about, but that she's 'one of us', she even wanted to know where we were all going after the gig! The Fav, of course, to try and annoy a Klaxon or two at the afterparty.

Discussing musical interests and the whole 'style over

substance' argument was what really swung my opinion though. The fact that there's no reason why style and image can't be influences to the music a band creates as long as they remain just that, influences, rather than the only thing to grab attention. This exchange started with my question 'what things, musical or otherwise, have influenced you as a band?'. Amusingly, Tahita freely admits that the band came up with the name partly because they thought that 'I Heart NYPC' would look good on a t-shirt, and partly because Pony Club was already taken. I also asked the cheesy question 'what was the first record you ever bought?'. It's a classic for a reason, and in case you're wondering she said it was Duran Duran and Madonna. We also agreed on the whole 'New Rave' movement, in that it isn't really anything new and if you look at it, it's

just 'dance-indie', and that's hardly a new thing. She also gave the little insight that right up until the last minute it was going to be called 'all-dance' by the NME.

Though I'm going to have to edit this slightly as this quote from Tahita was the following: 'it's a bit hard though cos we've been playing first when everybody's just had their tea and really can't be arsed to dance. Well I suppose that's better than playing later on when everyone's s**tfaced'. What's not to like about honesty?

words/ neil walker



Unfortunately for New Young Pony Club, when they take to the stage at the crack of dawn in gig terms, the room is only around a quarter full. Those early birds who did bother to get themselves here on time, or aren't stuck waiting to buy an overpriced, watered down pint of Carling, are treated to a half hour set of disco filtered indie. Disappointingly for a band putting out music that is most at home on the dancefloor the band remain fairly static throughout with only frontwoman Tahita the exception. Her semi shaven head and stuttering robot dance produce a striking if somewhat disinterested pose that leaves the crowd cold. Ironic for a band whose best song is called 'Ice Cream'. Played towards the end of the set it's a shame the Talking Heads-esque electro beat and downright filthy lyrics don't warm up the meagre crowd. I (like most of the audience I can only presume) am dancing on the inside. (6)

It's no surprise that by the time New Yorkshire survivors turned punk funk party starters The Sunshine Underground take to the stage the room is filling up nicely (albeit mainly with our day-glo clad little brothers and sisters). The tracksuit lads with something of a Manc swagger about them are definitely the odd ones out on this line up but the crowd (those old enough to drink anyhow) are more than willing to temporarily put aside their glow sticks in exchange for swilling pints in plastic cups. The Leeds band storm through hits of their acclaimed debut 'Raise The Alarm' including 'Wake Up' and 'Put You In Your Place'. Armed to the teeth with all manner of percussive instruments, the boys inject a healthy dose of rhythm into their set which significantly boosts the live quality of their music as well as driving the atmosphere of the room up a notch. Even recent single 'Boarders' is greeted with a riotous reception. This may have something to do with the local support, but with the band garnering support from the tight jeansed hipsters and asbo youth alike, surely greatness must await; 'come on Leeds!' frontman Craig Wellington calls out to the crowd. (8)

With a moniker that stands for 'Cansei de ser

sexy', Portuguese for "Tired of being sexy", those unfamiliar with the Sao Paolo natives could be forgiven for thinking this gig is soon to be heading in the direction of a languid lounge jazz vibe. Think again. CSS bound on stage and straight into cheeky album opener 'CSS SuXXX'. Frontwoman Lovefoxxx, a whirling dervish in baggy white t-shirt and leggings, shouts coquettishly "C! S! S! Suck!" Next up is the band's one true piece of pop genius "Alala". The repeated vocals 'ah la la ah la la' aren't exactly on the level of Dylan, Springsteen or even Maximo Park but along with the trebly guitar and casio beats they create a real rhythm. The band's wild child vocalist wins over the crowd with her zany Latin American humour, reading out sob stories from celeb gossip mags and talking general nonsense in broken English. Prior to playing 'Music is My Hot Hot Sex' Lovefoxxx announces that if prematurely deceased R'n'B star Aaliyah were still alive that she would be singing this song. The humorous, highly stylised, spunky and sarcastic lyrics of songs like 'Art Bitch' and 'Fuckoff is Not the Only Thing You Have to Show' are exercises in post-coolness but the band is at its most engaging when it focuses on the music and finds a real groove. Set closer and biggest hit 'Let's Make Love and Listen to Death From Above' actually captures some of the raucous rhythm of DFA 1979 with punk funk hi hats something like early Le Tigre. Comparisons aside, CSS show they do have substance beneath their (impeccable) style. (8)

Klaxons take to stage lanky, boisterous and seething with energy. Opening with the song that perhaps helped to spawn the new rave myth, a cover of Kicks Like A Mule's rave anthem 'The Bouncer', the band of the moment have the crowd going wild from the off. Their blistering pace and furious delivery resembles more the death metal satanic punk of Mclusky and the retrospectively ahead of their time Testicicles than dance music in any of its forms. What the songs lose in detail and accuracy they gain in the pure adrenaline rush of the performance. Though certain quarters of the national music press may have it that everyone who goes to see the Klaxons is pilled up to their eyeballs or lost in the K hole, drugs

do not seem to be a staple of tonight's show. There is nothing to separate this from the atmosphere of other hyped up indie gigs. That said, a minority of worryingly young punters are visibly having what some would call an 'MDMAzing' time. While I hate to play the responsible adult it's definitely not a good thing that journalists see fit to encourage their young audience to sample these delights in what can be a disorientating, dehydrating and unfriendly environment.

If we're to believe those London trendsetters at Vice magazine then new rave, at least the clothing style, is already dead (boys it's browns, blacks and greys with a hint of the absurd and for girls baggy white tees, leggings and Doc Martins...or so I'm told). Indeed the fashion concept turned loosely associated musical sub-genre has been around for nigh on a year now and without the next-big-thing excitement behind them the Klaxons' material is exposed at certain points throughout the set as decidedly average. Having said that, the Shoreditch scenesters turned scene starters have more than a few bona fide CHOONS with which to silence the naysayers. 'Atlantis to Interzone', whose sampled 'klaxon' siren call has become synonymous with indie music that wants to blow it's whistle, creates pandemonium in the pit. Before even a note is played of new single and pop-chart hand grenade 'Golden Skans' the audience are already singing the haunting vocal melody back at the stage. Their other 'rave' cover, Grace's "Not Over Yet" is perhaps high point of the set showing that vocals can still be a strong point without references to the occult and nods to post apocalyptic novelists J G Ballard and William Burroughs. Set closer 'Gravity's Rainbow' is a spazzed out, intergalactic love song and the chorus refrain must ring true for the majority of those present tonight: "Come with me/ Come with me/ We'll travel to infinity/ I'll always be there for you/ My future love."

(T)

words/ j r dennett

ARTS

cinema/



THE BLOOD DIAMOND

Starring/ Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly, Djimon Hounsou, Michael Sheen Director/ Ed Zwick

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Such a good film, really enjoyed myself. Set against the backdrop of the chaos and civil war that enveloped 1990s Sierra Leone, *Blood Diamond* is the story of Danny Archer (DiCaprio), an ex-mercenary made diamond smuggler from Zimbabwe, and Solomon Vandy (Hounsou), a Mende fisherman. When Solomon loses his family to local rebels and is forced to sift for diamonds in a local mine, he finds something quite special... a huge diamond. Danny Archer is quick on the scent and what ensues is a break neck paced thriller where both men's lives are attached to the fate of the very object that is tearing their nation apart...

At times this film can be seen as both brutal and completely unforgiving in its depiction of the rebel violence sweeping through our character's lives. This is not done in an overly gratuitous way, nor does it radiate the affected air of Hollywood; it's realistic, harrowing, but most importantly, very believable. What gives this film its real pomp however, are its flawless performances. DiCaprio truly holds the screen as Danny Archer. He is in no doubt constantly the central interest in this film and at no time do you doubt his legitimacy as a character. His South African accent is solid, which undoubtably holds a large amount of sway over our judgement of his

overall performance, but even so, DiCaprio's acting prowess is truly undeniable. He seems to have capitalised on the darker elements of his character in recent years, what with his remarkable performance in *The Departed*, but it is clear that he has really found his feet in this role.

Equally, Djimon Hounsou is heart-warmingly convincing as Solomon. It helps that he has the best shouting voice that I have heard in some time. He has two modes in this film, looking like a sad dog and screaming at people "Where are my family?!?!" but it works for him. Jennifer Connelly is again, believable but she seems too aware of the camera. She's hot and she knows it and seems to be constantly flirting with her eyes. Even in mortal danger her eyes seem to flirt too much.

The ending could be criticised for being a little corny, but to be honest any film with such content with a happy ending is always subject to such criticism. I thought the ending acceptable, but most importantly it still hammered home its political message: Always check where you get your diamonds from.

(8/10)

words/ andrew edlestone

the BAFTA awards/

The BAFTAs. Really, does anyone actually care? It's the eternal question that plagues the event. Just as the British film industry lives in the shadow of the films produced across the pond, the BAFTAs are essentially the poor man's Academy Awards. The Robin to the Academy Awards' Batman. Sort of. Even the winners must feel a little awkward accepting their award. When they win their Oscar later this month, that BAFTA's shelf life is probably going to take a plunge. And judging by the no-show at Sunday's ceremony by the likes of Leonardo DiCaprio and a number of others, the night wasn't exactly top of Hollywood's 'To-Do' list. That trip to K-Mart must have just clinched it. Anyway. All reservations aside, the awards do did see some year's finest flicks get the recognition they thoroughly deserved.

No one film dominated the night and none of the big contenders went away empty handed. Well, almost. Despite being one of the most acclaimed films of the year, *Casino Royale* was left all but empty handed. Eva Green's Rising Star award could just about be considered a victory for Bond. Just about. As the night went on all the big name films got their gongs. Paul Greengrass won Best Director

for *United 93*. *The Last King of Scotland* was awarded Best British Film and Best Actor for Forest Whitaker. *Little Miss Sunshine*'s Alan Arkin won Best Supporting Actor and the film got Best Original Screenplay too. *Children of Men* may have missed out on being nominated in the major categories, but the film still managed scoop the awards for Cinematography and Production Design. *Pan's Labyrinth* won Best Foreign Film and also a host of other awards. Undoubtedly, at least in the mind of this ill-informed writer, *Pan's Labyrinth* was the best film of last year. The BAFTAs obviously disagreed. It wasn't even one of the nominees for Best Film. *Pan's Labyrinth* sat on the sidelines as *The Queen* took home that prize. Now by all accounts Helen Mirren deserved to win Best Actress, and if she hadn't there would have been panic in the streets of London. Fair enough. But how this jumped up BBC afternoon drama beat *The Departed* or *The Last King of Scotland* is amazing. In a bad way. Consider my cinematic faith shaken.

But then again. This is the BAFTAs. And within a few weeks, days or maybe even in just a matter of minutes...will anyone care?

words/ mark mackay

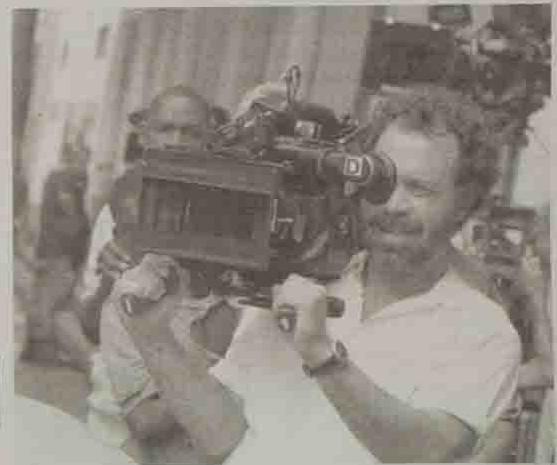
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director in-depth

LS2 takes a look at the work of *The Blood Diamond*'s director, Ed Zwick/



Who is Edward Zwick you ask? Well, Zwick is one of many Hollywood directors whose name may not ring a bell, but who has for years made a steady stream of mainstream films that have penetrated the public consciousness. He has worked alongside the likes of Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, Tom Cruise and Denzel Washington amongst many other high profile Hollywood names.

Zwick's current film *Blood Diamond* has received much publicity and is praised not only for its performances (especially that of Leonardo DiCaprio, who is nominated for an Oscar), but also for the pertinent issues of child soldiering and conflict diamonds that it explores. Even though it has been dismissed by some as merely one of many current films that use white protagonists to explore issues regarding Africa (alongside, for example, *The Constant Gardener* and *The Last King of Scotland*), it cannot be denied that films like these are important in giving these issues public recognition. Not all of his work, however, has been so weighty.

The late 90s saw Zwick churning out a series of rather underwhelming military thrillers including *The Siege* (1998) and *Courage Under Fire* (1996), which were relatively high profile but mildly received. Nevertheless, Zwick has displayed what may be viewed as range, and his feature-length directorial debut was a somewhat mediocre 80s relationship drama with Demi Moore called *About Last Night*. He also went on to co-create *My So-Called Life*, the short lived offbeat TV show about suburban teenage dramas which starred Claire Danes.

Zwick is no stranger to big budget action films with a message; indeed one of his most famous and highly praised films to date is *Glory* (1989), an effective and enjoyable exploration of the American Civil War from the perspective of the first all-black company of soldiers. Zwick has had plenty of practice directing such period films, including the forgettable *Legends of the Fall* (1994), set in turn of the century America. *The Last Samurai* (2003), Zwick's most recent period effort, is a commendable two-hour attempt at making Tom Cruise not look ridiculously short in 19th century Japan. It is an over-bloated and rather silly period epic that takes itself far too seriously. Yet whilst it was an extremely high-profile film, it was fundamentally a vehicle for its star and not a directors' film.

Zwick, so far, has had quite an interesting and diverse career, and although he may never be a household name, let's just hope that from now on he will steer clear of bland military thrillers and go on to direct more important and international films like *Blood Diamond*.

words/ dan smith

cinema/

The film begins with Dench on a bench wistfully overlooking London, accompanied by her voiceover that proceeds to take us through her sordid and delusional thoughts. Judi Dench plays the part of Barbara, the battleaxe history teacher and withered spinster, cats and all. The film is cleverly set in grey wintry months, which makes Blanchett's character's arrival, Sheba, even more of a beautiful breath of fresh air to the faculty, and in particular the students. It's not long before Sheba, the progressive art teacher, becomes engaged in a raunchy affair with 15-year-old Stephen, and Barbara catches them at it. Barbara then uses this newly acquired information to tie Sheba down to a strange and one-sided friendship.

Throughout *Notes on a Scandal*, we as an audience are let into Barbara's thoughts via voiceover that narrate her diary entries. We know far more than Blanchett's character and so an appropriate amount of naivety is laid upon her. There is a satisfying scene at the end where she discovers all, however it is one of few payoffs. I found myself half way through wondering how this could possibly end in a way that doesn't trivialise the rest of the film. There is certainly one slightly toe curling "cry of anguish" scene that seems to have been thrown in at the last minute to add depth that is already there to Blanchett's character.

The expectation of the script is high because it is a product of *Closer* writer Patrick Marber and he does not fail to deliver, in dialogue at least. It is quintessentially British and realistic with some fantastic one liners from Judi Dench. He has also



NOTES ON A SCANDAL

Starring/ Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Bill Nighy
Director/ Richard Eyre

ex teacher played by Bill Nighy who, despite having a relatively small part is a delight to watch.

Essentially this is a film that is weighed down by a fabulous cast but that drags its feet when it comes to the story telling. Written as a novel by Zoë Heller and short listed for the Man Booker Prize and long listed for the Orange Prize, one gets the feeling that as a story it works better in prose than on the big screen.

(6/10)

words/ beth colmer



HOT FUZZ

Starring/ Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Jim Broadbent, Bill Nighy, Steve Coogan, Martin Freeman, Paddy Considine, Timothy Dalton Director/ Edgar Wright

activity, it falls to Nicholas and his brilliantly named partner Danny Butterman (Frost) to bust it wide open.

A very simple premise, and quite rightly so. The possibilities for character expansion are endless, which allows writers Pegg and Wright to make the most of their brilliant ensemble of talented British character actors. It takes on the feeling of a Miss Marple detective story, pertaining to a certain level of realism for a good length of time before the pacing takes a shot of pure adrenaline. There are the trademark homage references made throughout the film from the Tony Scott shaky-cam montage

sequences at the beginning to the *Point Break* reference at the end. Whilst this is a more definitively structured film than *Shaun of the Dead*, it does not lack any of the hilarity or quotability that made that film such a success. If anything, *Hot Fuzz* adds even more to the trio's repertoire of filmic ability. This review doesn't do it justice, anyone could write for days on its slickness, style and comic value. The best thing to do is to see the quality for yourself.

(8/10)

words/ tom foster

theatre/

professionalism and expectation.

It was bemusing to see that the youngest age group had decided to perform one of Shakespeare's most challenging plays, *The Merchant of Venice*. None of the cast looked over the age of about twelve, but pull it off they did and with great aplomb. Understanding Shakespeare tests academics, but not only did I believe that the diminutive chap in the black cape was Shylock, I felt chills down my spine as he delivered his last speech. Watch out for Dean Patrick - he's going to be famous in twenty years, mark my words.

Next on the list was *Much Ado About Nothing*, performed by Intake Arts College. Alternative emo kid Benedict sparred convincingly with queen of the playground (crossed arms, black kohl scowl and ponytail included) Beatrice, and a Carl Barat-esque Prince held his own.

Romeo and Juliet was the treat in store for us after

the interval, and was the strongest production of all four. Most of the cast were playing characters close to their own age, which meant that certain crucial moments of teen angst and sexual frustration were very convincingly portrayed. It also meant that it was one of the most moving performances of the play that I have ever seen. Having only seen actors in their thirties play the lead roles before, the novelty of seeing fourteen year olds play perhaps the two most famous teenage parts in English literature meant that I actually believed it.

Lastly, the 15-19 age group gave a dynamic and inventive version of *Twelfth Night*. It was very much an ensemble piece, with all the cast on stage for the entire production, alternately mimicking and heckling whomever was acting at the time.

words/ lara choksey

THE SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL @ WYP

The more I think about it, the more I come to the conclusion that this is a remarkable idea. Over the space of a fortnight, 1,050 schools across the country present their versions of various condensed Shakespeare plays in impressively major national theatres. We were to see four plays in the space of two hours by four separate schools. Although the audience was primarily made up of proud parents and family members (echoes of "Hi Mum" reverberated around the room before the performance), there was a definite sense of

BOOKS

"Wear the old coat and buy the new book."

- Austin Phelps

fiction/

Myren's Gift
Fiona McIntosh
672pp, Orbit, £7.99.



Since the success of the transfer of the *Lord of the Rings* from page to screen, the market for fantasy novels has swollen greatly with a glut of sword-and-sorcery works. As a fan of the genre, this doesn't particularly bother me, but what does is the high proportion of such books that are, simply, unoriginal tosh which borrow so heavily from the geniuses of fantasy literature, such as Tolkein, George RR Martin, or Robert Jordan that there is nothing new about them at all. However, McIntosh's *Myren's Gift* bucks this trend, and is an intriguing beginning to the seemingly obligatory trilogy (decent stand alone fantasy is rare these days).

It primarily focuses on the trials and tribulations of General Wyl Thirsk of Morgavia as he seeks to win a battle of wits against the vile King of his people. So far, so simple. However, where *Myren's Gift* marks a departure from the norm is in the other underlying plotlines, such as the eponymous gift Wyl receives from a witch whose suffering he tried to ease as a boy during her trial. It will detract a large amount of the tension if I describe what precisely the gift entails, so for those of you who are even vaguely interested, I shall remain quiet on this score, but suffice it to say the moment when the true gift makes itself known is

something of a welcome relief considering the turn of events. McIntosh shows a real flair for characterisation in *Myren's Gift*, although one flaw might be that the characters (of which there are many) are somewhat black and white in their intentions; for example, Wyl is every inch the hero despite the cruel twists of fate he suffers, whereas his enemy, evil King Celimus, shows know signs of redemption.

McIntosh doesn't seem to place the same merit in description of landscapes as she shows to her characters and their attire, but the story doesn't suffer for this. The plot is clear, and by the end, you really empathise with Wyl, although some of the other characters are not mentioned for several chapters, and one almost forgets them. Another complaint by some might be that by the end of the book, all the dealing and lying done by all characters is somewhat confusing, and it takes several long speeches towards the end to refresh some of the points that could be forgotten. All in all, *Myren's Gift* represents a welcome edition to the fantasy genre, as it has enough originality to hold its own in a flooded market, and I for one am looking forward to reading the next two instalments.

(7/10)

words/ katie dunn

fiction/

Satsuma Sun-mover
Adam Green
194pp, Lazy Gramophone, £8.99



Satsuma Sun-mover is a fantastic book, in all senses of the word. Following Theo Fintwistle through his induction into the world of philosophy at Cambridge, across continents, through the fifth dimension, and in and out of various mental states, the reader experiences the coming of age of a young man in a most unconventional way. Although this may sound absurd and, potentially, tiresome, Adam Green pulls it off thoroughly well – it is always exciting when an author incorporates the absurd with a firm yet casual hand.

The quality of writing in *Satsuma Sun-mover* is top-notch. The different dialects among the book's characters are written in a plausible manner that enables them to flow well within the story, avoiding the unfortunate and painful experience of contrived and awkward dialogue. Accompanied by whimsical and well-incorporated illustrations ranging from photographs to wiggly sketches, the description is brilliantly done, with delicious passages throughout the novel (which I found

hugely refreshing after Tom Robbins' smug and heavy style). Still, Green's lyrical and descriptive prose does not obscure a solid grounding in cultural and intellectual awareness, which works to produce witty and poignant moments.

This is the kind of book one wishes had an equivalent edible form. Filling your head with images and your belly with laughter, *Satsuma Sun-mover* is a delight. This is Green's first novel, and leaves much room for future publications (I thoroughly expect a sequel). Easy to absorb and satisfying, I recommend it to anyone looking for a short jaunt into the unexpected.

(9/10)

words/ thea whitman



At 6pm on Tuesday, as part of the "Leeds Read" 2007, a "Pancakes and Poetry" evening will be held in Parkinson Court. This year's event involves students voting for their favourite poem. A selection of the poems nominated will be read by Performance and Cultural Industries students; a small charge will be made for the appropriate refreshments!

- Stef Penney has won the first Costa book award for her novel *The Tenderness of Wolves*. Penney researched the tale of murder and intrigue set in 19th century Canada in the British Library.
- Despite not being released for another five months, the final installment of J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series is already at the top of the Amazon bestseller chart on preorder sales alone.

news/

Whose Bible Is It?: A History of the Scriptures Through the Ages
Jaroslav Pelikan
288pp, Penguin Books Ltd, £8.99

One of the most controversial documents of all time has to have been the Bible, in its various forms, translations and in particular its varying interpretations. In *Whose Bible Is It?*, Jaroslav Pelikan, one of the world's foremost bible-scholars presents a history of the text, from its beginnings in Hebrew and Greek, through Latin and numerous other languages, as well as examining the importance of the spoken word in its origin. He also includes some thoughts on the influence of the tome in the present day, and his hopes for its future.

Sounds like some hard going, yes? Well, at some stages, I confess, Pelikan lost me a little as he went into detail about this translation or that, and the precise meaning of a particular word and each subtle nuance of the original text that is seemingly missed from its current accepted version. My mind and eyes began to wander from the page, and I began to wonder whether I should just give up. However, that view was somewhat harsh and unforgiving, and the majority of the just-under-three-hundred-pages are very accessible to the reader with little background knowledge of the subject of the history of the Bible. Despite his academic roots, Pelikan's written style is almost never overly dry or hard to follow (although there are moments). How he manages to get through so many thousands of years of what in certain points is reasonably dull history, without losing the attention of the reader is a mystery to me. It was a fascinating read though, from the perspective of an outsider to organised religion, and many interesting facts lurk in the text, which are excellent to drop into conversation should you ever reach an awkward silence. In *Whose Bible Is It?* Pelikan is offering a new and vital insight into the last three thousand years of history. To resort to a somewhat depressing cliché, miss it, miss out.

(6/10)

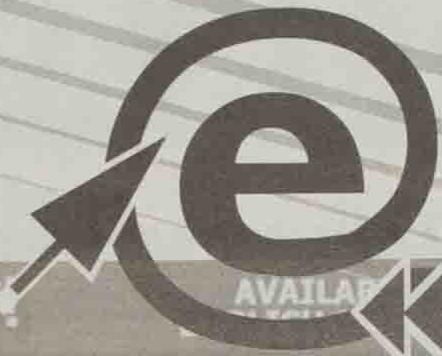
words/ katie dunn

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'PEDRO'

IN A WEEK REMEMBERED FOR H5N1, CO2 AND 07916339832 (CALL EPAGE ANYTIME), WHY NOT TAKE A RELAXING BREAK FROM ALL THAT DISSERTATION NUMBER CRUNCHING AND DELVE IN TO EPAGE'S GUIDE TO THE WEIRD SEX WORLD OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB.

The internet began as a scary, unregulated place where you could, amongst other things, look at nudey ladies. Epage blushes. In the following years, they allowed naked men online, then animals, then furniture. But today's pornwatcher is so de-sensitised to the world of 'normal sex' because the range of explicit content available online is saturated by filthy, filthy, filthy, material. Velour, thinks Epage?

Here we find <http://www.menstrual-cycle.com>, a particularly crude web site which wallows in the delights of vaginal bodily functions. 'Bloody P*ssy Pics' are upstaged only by 'Yeast Infected C**ts'. Epage was wondering what type of person would be aroused by such goings-on, then realised, by clicking the 'enter' button, the same people, it would seem, that enjoy 'dirty pads' and 'used

tampons'. For once, Epage is well and truly silenced and apologises for any offense.

<http://www.theamputee.com> could seem quite the forward-looking website. Why shouldn't we have disabled porn? We have the Paralympics. The rather damning, or hugely innovative, representation of a middle-aged, disabled man, if not baffling, does lay question to how such a 'fetish' was discovered. 'Pedro', as he is called, lost his left leg in an accident and is now the world's first amputee porn star. Epage avoids controversy. One great big tick for disabled rights? Probably not. Epage doubts that the exploitation of a missing limb is such a winner with modern liberals, thinking instead, that this is no more than a degrading nail in a politically correct coffin.

Third site to tickle your inflamed, pulsating taste-buds is <http://www.sex-fi.com>, a site which

'boldy goes where no porn site has gone before'. Slip your way in to find animated pictures shooting from various orifices. 'Alien Sex', 'Sci-Fi Erotica', Vampires and even 3D toons for the (cough) all round experience. Perhaps most interesting was an uninvited pop-up offering instant access to a Cyber-Sex forum. Something about a slightly rotund model in Spandex just doesn't boot Epage's hard drive - perhaps a shut down is in order. 0100111 011100100110101001. Welcome to Microsoft Windows Vista - Error - connect 110101.

words/ tim sevenths
timsevenths@gmail.com

Got a better idea
than Epage?

Ideas and writers always needed email
editor@lsweb.org.uk

TELEVISION

Talk a Bad Game

As a sponge cake iced with turd. A living room with original floorboards covered in a rug knitted from second-hand toilet roll. Sandals over socks. All things that would be great if not garnished with utter shit. Basically, you simply wouldn't do it. This however is the tactic the BBC is persistently employing by allowing the voices of absolute morons to be aired in alignment with our beautiful game. *Football Focus* and *Match of the Day* not only use commentators reliant on clichés and pathetically researched statistics, but pundits who have the linguistic capacity of a person who likes a good window lick. I realise this comment may cross over into the sporting domain and as such could be covered by that magnificent section over in LS1 but basically I don't care. My spleen has remain suppressed enough in this matter. It needs a good venting.

My principle target of loathing is the great (fingers crossed soon to be late) John Motson. The amount of astonishingly pointless and patently wrong comments that he comes out with is ridiculous. Classics include: "Nearly all the Brazilian supporters are wearing yellow shirts - it's a fabulous kaleidoscope of colour" and "And Seaman, just like a falling oak, manages to change direction". But he is also annoying with the way he is too

scared to ever state anything with authority. He'll say something like "Ooh I think that might be a goal" when the net has bulged, the players are celebrating and the scoreboard has changed or "That looks like he's been sent off" when the red card has clearly been shown, the player has had his early bath and is apologising for assaulting the opposition player in a post-match conference. Grow some balls for fuck's sake! When Motson teams up with part-time stand-up Mark Lawrenson, the event of the football match descends into farce and absurdity. The Scouser who formerly sported a comical moustache attempts to crack a gag every time he speaks, always of the most tedious kind. When Motson spoke of the "daylight" rule when regarding offside, Lawrenson pedantically quipped "But we're playing at night". Hilarious you tosser.

Back in the studio the pundits are equally as bad. Despite Gary Lineker's general ability to act as a good anchor for *Match of the Day* he becomes tarnished as being in the same 'Old Boys' club as the two Alans, Hansen and Shearer. Both of whom getting their jobs at the Beeb based on football ability rather than analytical ability. A cardboard box could literally do a better job than Shearer. Literally. It would not only analyse a football match better but have more

personality to boot. The level of boredom he emits makes me want to cry. The hypocrisy he comes out with is astonishing. He'll make a comment such as "That lad should get a big ban for an elbow like that" obviously forgetting the time he told the fuckwits at the FA he wouldn't play for England if he received a retrospective ban for kicking Neil Lennon in the face as he lay on the floor.

Football Focus gives us anchors with no affiliation to or passion for football at all. These guys are just doing the job by numbers and couldn't care less about the issues being discussed. The Beeb employs presenting whores such as Ray Stubbs and a guy called Maniche to cover a variety of sports such as cricket, tennis, snooker and even darts, rather than experts who know what they are talking about.

Amongst the others who deserve the sack (or at least a good kicking) is the self important Garth Crooks who rambles for ages before pausing as if what he's about to say is really insightful and important and then stating the bleedingly obvious like "Owen could be missed". I realise it is difficult to get the balance just right between ex-pro and intelligent football insight but Gavin Peacock shows it is possible.

words/ laurie whitwell



Blast From The Past!

Time again to take a nostalgic look back at memorable shows from a bygone era. This week

Captain Planet!

Captain Planet, he's a hero, gonna bring pollution down to zero! Strong words. This 90s cartoon alerted its pre-teen viewers to environmental dangers such as toxic waste, deforestation and litter. The show's hero, the man responsible for bringing pollution down to zero, was a blue skinned, green haired man called Captain Planet. Planet was not alone mind, no, he had five trusty human friends to help out. A globally diverse group, they were entrusted with five magical rings that gave them control over the classical elements. There was WIND, in charge of the wind, FIRE, in charge of fire, EARTH, in charge of earth, WATER, in charge of water. Oh, and HEART, in charge of... love. You would feel somewhat shafted if you ended up with love wouldn't you? Imagine the scene as Planet handed out the rings for the first time. "Here young lady I give you WATER! You have the ability to command the deepest Ocean! Marvel at the unnerving tempest and unleash its limitless power! And you, young black youth, I give you FIRE! Engulf your enemies with the insatiable torments of nature's cruellest blessing! And you, young man, I give you HEART... look after it ok... it's really small so you could lose it easily..."

When these rings were combined they would summon the Captain himself. Now considering that Captain Planet was called upon in every single episode, it seems that the whole ring concept was a bit of a waste of time. If Planet could sort all these

problems out himself and very quickly, then why bother giving out magic rings? I remember at the end of the show when the Captain would turn up. He always seemed a little out of breath or in a rush, like he just came from an important business meeting and knew he was late "Sorry I was err... shaving and err, well traffic... Piss off look at my muscles and my green hair, don't you judge me!" Lazy, that's what he was. It's not like the 'Bad Guys' in the show were particularly formidable. I mean for goodness sake, Duke Nukem, a man comprised entirely of radioactive waste, would attempt to blend into society by adopting a Hawaiian shirt. Obviously not a man to be reckoned with.

Captain Planet was both informative and harrowing, although where is he now in the hour of our greatest need? Lazy bastard.

words/ andrew edelston



King Of Comedy? The Friends Do Battle

Harry Hill (owns a big collar)

Harry Hill's TV Burp is the funniest show on television at the moment. It manages to be hilarious without being offensive, which probably makes it the only comedy show of recent times that the entire family could realistically sit down and watch together without anyone dying of boredom. Charlie Brooker's Screen Wipe follows a similar format but is very much an adult-only programme. Harry is also a thoroughly nice guy. He let me attend his TV Burp wrap party a few years ago, despite having no idea who I was or why I was there. Al Murray was also there, and whilst he earned many man points for having a spectacularly attractive girlfriend, he cannot match Harry's skill as a comedian. He also owes his career to Harry, having been given his big break playing big brother Alan in the original Harry Hill Show back in 1997. There can be only one winner in this battle of funnymen, and it's the erstwhile Dr Matthew Hall, also known as Harry Hill.

words/ phil spooner

Al Murray (owns a pub)

The pub landlord persona that Al Murray has created is genius for numerous reasons. He is the perfect combination of xenophobe, misogynist and pisshead, allowing a constant stream of hilariously un-PC comments to slur out of his mouth. He doesn't give a shit. The Germans and the French come in for a particularly persistent kicking. Murray defines himself by his gender and nationality and rails against everything he isn't simultaneously satirising the absurdity of racism and the massive amount of political correctness in the world today. In his stand-up show he always has a pint of lager in his hand and I'm sure he is genuinely drunk at the end. He asks people their names and then instantly derides or praises them for it depending on whether he can claim it to be of foreign origin or not. "Steve? Good name. Good strong English name. Laurence? Comes from the Latin for 'weak one'. Not good." I have seen him throw a massive inflatable globe into the audience as well with no thought for health or safety. That is what comedy is all about. Massive inflatable globes.

words/ laurie whitwell


**BBC
ONE**

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Shopping the Supermarkets. **10.00** Homes under the Hammer. **11.00** Living in the Sun. **11.45** Car Booty. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Regional News and Weather. **1.40** Neighbours. **2.05** Doctors. **2.35** Diagnosis Murder. **3.20** BBC News; Weather. **Regional News. 3.25** CBBC: ChuckleVision. **3.40** What's New. **Scooby Doo? 4.00** Raven. **4.30** Best of Friends. **5.00** Gina's Laughing Gear. **5.30** Newsround. **5.35** Neighbours. **6.00** BBC News and Weather. **6.30** Look North; Weather. **7.00** A Question of Sport. Steve Redgrave, Colin Montgomerie, Spanish tennis star Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and rugby league legend Martin Offiah join Ally McCoist and Matt Dawson. **7.30** Inside Out. Surprising real-life stories from familiar places. Weatherman Paul Hudson goes for a driving lesson on ice, while Asha Tanna reveals the bugs lurking in your late-night takeaway. **8.00** EastEnders. Denise struggles to cope with news about Kevin. Tanya begins to get suspicious, and Jay pushes Yolande too far. **8.30** After You've Gone. To Jimmy's dismay, Siobhan and Diana bond at a pub quiz. **9.00** Lilies. Drama series set in 1920s Liverpool and based around the lives of three sisters. When May becomes very ill, Ruby is forced to make a choice between friends and family. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.35** Comedy Connections. **11.15** FILM: Platoon (1986). Oscar-winning war drama following a college dropout who signs up for service in Vietnam in September 1967 and finds himself plunged into the bloody chaos of life on the frontline, starring Tom Berenger and Willem Dafoe. **1.15** Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC
TWO**

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. **6.20** The Story Makers. **6.40** Balamory. **7.00** Something Special. **7.15** Come Outside. **7.30** Boogie Bebbies. **7.45** Jackanory Junior. **8.00** CBBC: Arthur. **8.25** Mona the Vampire. **8.50** Newsround. **8.55** Suspect. **9.20** Lizzie McGuire. **9.45** Legend of the Dragon. **10.10** Zombie Hotel. **10.35** Evan Stevens. **11.00** FILM: The Land before Time VII: Stone of Cold Fire (2000). **12.30** Working Lunch. **1.30** Ski Sunday Special. **2.15** Perfect Strangers. **2.45** Escape to the Country. **3.45** Flog It! **4.30** Ready Steady Cook. **5.15** Weakest Link. **6.00** Safari School. **6.30** MasterChef Goes Large. **7.00** Coming To Your Screen: DIY TV. **7.30** Jimmy's Diaries. Essex-boy Jimmy's passion is to help bring back the extremely rare Essex pig. **8.00** A New Year at Kew. It's the hottest July on record and the staff are helping the plants to survive the drought. **8.30** Gardeners' World. Joe Swift visits the inner-city gardens bringing people together from all walks of life and takes a journey to discover how community gardens are created and run. **9.00** Nuclear Secrets. Series exploring key turning points in the race for nuclear supremacy looks at the world's first global nuclear smuggling ring, set up by a Pakistani scientist. **10.00** The Grumpy Guide to Food and Wine. Middle-aged celebrities, including Nigel Slater, Jenny Eclair, Toby Young and Michael Winner, have a good whinge about the pretentious nonsense talked about food and wine. **10.30** Newsnight. **11.00** Newsnight Review. **11.35** Ski Sunday Special. Coverage of the World Championships from Are, Sweden. **12.20** Star Trek. **1.10** Star Trek. **2.00** Malcolm in the Middle. **2.20** Close

This is possibly the most bizarre title to a programme I have ever seen in my long career as a hard-nosed hack. Having briefly looked into it I've found its about a over-

weight British mum (let's call her Chubby McCub) who adopts the diet of a Parisian for no particular reason it seems other than to provide a show for the title. I'm expecting Chubby

to declare her love for snails and garlic during this frolic before falling back into gorging on chips and pies as soon as the cameras stop rolling. Laurie Whitwell

ITV 1

6.00 GMTV. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **10.30** This Morning. **12.00** This Morning: Dancing on Ice Special. **12.30** Loose Women. **1.30** ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. **2.00** Midsomer Murders. **3.00** Coronation Street Confidential. **3.30** Dancing on Ice Exclusive. **3.55** Kavanagh QC. **5.30** Dale's All Star Supermarket Sweep. **6.00** Calendar. **6.30** ITV Evening News; Weather. **7.00** Emmerdale. The police find the murder weapon. Belle sits her entrance exam for public school. Billy is bowled over when Daz asks him to stay. **7.30** Coronation Street. There's disaster at Roy's Rolls - the finger of suspicion points at Becky. Fiz is heartbroken as Chesney goes home. Norris falls for Sophie's prank. **8.00** French Fat Swap: Tonight. An overweight British mum adopts the lifestyle and diet of a Parisian to discover why the UK has the highest obesity levels in Europe, while the French are among the slimmest. **8.30** A Touch of Frost. Drama series about an irascible detective inspector. Mullett is apprehensive when Frost takes tea with a country squire as he investigates a country death. **10.30** ITV News; Weather. The latest national and international news, plus national weather. Including local news programmes. **11.00** The BRITs Backstage. Kate Thornton goes backstage at this year's BRITs to capture all the excitement, nerves and immediate reactions from assorted winners and nominees. **12.05** ITV Play: Make Your Play. **4.10** 60 Minute Makeover. **5.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Early Morning News.

4

6.10 The Hoobs. **6.35** The Hoobs. **7.00** Freshly Squeezed. **7.30** Friends. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **8.55** Frasier. **9.30** Giving Up the Weed. **10.30** Sex, Lies and Soaps. **11.00** Fame. Asylum. **12.00** News at Noon. **12.30** FILM: The Raid (1954). War, starring Van Heflin and Anne Bancroft. **2.00** Room for Improvement. **2.30** A Place in the Sun. **3.30** Countdown. **4.15** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** Richard and Judy. **6.00** The Simpsons. **6.30** Hollyoaks. A stunned Jake and Nancy blame themselves for recent events, but the situation gets worse when Jake confronts Calvin and Justin. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.30** The Insider: Kidneys For Sale. Renal surgeon Professor Nadey Hakin discusses Britain's shortage of kidney donors and proposes a scheme in which the NHS would pay for organs. **8.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Grandparents Brian and Ruth Naylor decide between moving closer to family in Eastbourne, or making a fresh start in France's Dordogne region. **9.00** Ugly Betty. Betty is asked to review an expensive hotel. Sofia takes up residence in Mode's conference room. **10.00** Friday Night Project. Tonight's guest host is Ashley Jensen. **11.05** Balls of Steel. **11.50** 4 Music: The Album Chart Show. On the bill are Magic Numbers, Lady Sovereign and Bloc Party. **12.25** 4 Music: 4Music in Session: Damien Rice. **12.55** 4 Music: JD Set. **1.10** 4 Music: 4Play: Jeremy Warmley. **1.25** 50 Pounds Says You'll Watch This. **2.25** FILM: Guilty by Suspicion (1990). Drama, starring Annette Bening and Robert De Niro. **4.15** House of Agoraphobics. **5.15** Countdown.

French Fat Swap: Tonight

8:00p.m

ITV1

Friday
February
16

five

6.00 Tickle, Patch and Friends. **6.25** Old Bear Stories. **6.35** Bird Bath. **6.45** Hi-5. **7.20** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. **7.30** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. **7.45** Make Way for Noddy. **8.00** Fifi and the Flowertots. **8.15** Peppa Pig. **8.25** Thomas & Friends. **8.35** Sailor Sid. **8.40** Roobarb and Custard Too. **8.50** Mi Ma. **9.00** The Wright Stuff. **10.30** Trisha Goddard. **11.30** five news. **12.00** Home and Away. **12.30** BrainTeaser. **1.40** FILM: Dalva (1996). Drama, starring Farrah Fawcett and Rod Steiger. **3.40** FILM: Our House (2006). Comedy, starring Doris Roberts and Judy Reyes. **5.30** five news. **6.00** Home and Away. Rocco's attempt to go straight is abruptly halted when his big brother Johnny appears on the scene. **6.30** Out of Practice. **7.00** Wild Events. Jake Willers finds out more about the Christmas Island red crab, whose perilous journey helps ensure the continuation of its species. **8.00** Nick Baker's Weird Creatures. Nick Baker is in the UK to seek out the elusive basking shark - a fish as long as a London bus and heavier than most elephants. **9.00** NCIS. When a boy informs the team that his father has been kidnapped, the team soon realises that the man is actually a Lt Commander working on a secret project. **10.00** Law and Order: Criminal Intent. Goren and Eames investigate an abusive patriarch who caused the death of his wife and three sons. **11.00** Guys and Dolls. Documentary about the men who use sophisticated life-size dolls for sexual satisfaction and more? such as dates, affection and lifelong companionship. **12.00** Prison Break. **1.00** Quiz Call. **5.35** Wildlife SOS.

club

Atrium
SALSOUL
salsa, timba, latin
RESURRECTION
indie

Baby Jupiter
MR GREEN'S ONION CLUB
soul, funk & jazz

Cockpit
THE SESSION
indie, electro & guitars

Creation
UNITE
dance, retro, r'n'b

Faversham
NEW BOHEMIA
nu-jazz with Spiritual South

Fibre
HIGH FIBRE BREAKFAST
Drew Scott, Stuart Robinson with funky electro

Hifi Club
FUNKSOULNATION
70's soul, funk with DJ's

Metropolitan Uni
STAR + ELECTRIC HEAD
metal, rock & indie

Mission
PURRFECT ELECTRO

Northern Light
HOUSE PROUD UN-CUT
Kissy Sellout, Oblong, Ben Gomori and more

University, Stylus
FRUITY
pop, r'n'b, indie, rock

The Subculture
TRASH ALLEY
glam rock 'n' roll punk

Wire
STRANGeways
indie, lo-fi, electro

gigs

Fenton
BUEN CHICO

Fox & Newt/
HEADFIRST

Hifi Club
CHICHINO

Packhorse
DEVIL'S JUKEBOX

alive alive.co.uk
born 1993

Children Welcome - we will organise entertainment!

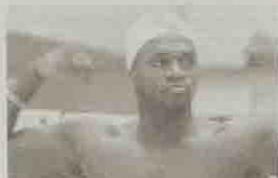
Student Parents & Carers Forum

A chance to:

- get your voice heard
- find out about the new Student Parent Assembly
- find out what the Union & the Student Parent Assembly can do for you
- meet other Student Parents

Meeting in the Conference Room @ Leeds University Union Refreshments & snacks will be available
12-2pm Monday 5th March You can drop in at any time during the meeting, although we plan to hold the main discussions from around 12:30pm.

Saturday
February
17



Atrium
SATURDAYS
house, soul, funk, r'n'b

Baby Jupiter
CIRCUS
soul, psyche, indie, funk

Bondi Beach Club
BOOGIE NIGHTS
makers of 'Love Train'

Creation
LIVE AT CREATION
chart with tribute acts

Evolution
I LOVE S.E.X.
r'n'b, hip hop, karaoke

Fenton
MOONSTOMP
reggae, 2-tone, ska

Halo
VOODOO
anthems, r'n'b, hip hop

Hifi Club
THE BOOGALOO CLUB
funk, jazz, latin, reggae

Highwood Hotel
JOE PALOKA'S SOULVILLE
60's soul, old skool r'n'b

My House
BASICS
with Secretsundaze

Northern Light
ITCHY GLITCHY
with The Glimmers

The Subculture
JUVENILE HALL
punk, hardcore, metal

Warehouse
ASYLUM & TECHNIQUE
Damian Lazarus, Pier Bucci & Chew The Fat

Cockpit
AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF THE DEAD

Faversham
GOOSE

Josephs Well
BOMBED OUT RECORDS ALL DAYER

Sela
NEW MASTERSOUNDS

alive
alive.co.uk
born 1993

INVENTURE
LEEDS ENTERPRISE SOCIETY

Like
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1960s, y

**BBC
ONE**

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen. 11.30 Bill's Food. 12.10 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Match of the Day Live. 2.30 Athletics: Indoor Grand Prix. 4.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 4.45 Final Score. 5.05 Match of the Day Live.

7.20 **When Will I Be Famous?** Graham Norton introduces variety acts who perform in a series of head-to-head showdowns. The winners then go through to the final for a chance to win the weekly 10,000 pound prize.

8.20 **The National Lottery: 1 vs 100.** Dermot O'Leary hosts a quiz show in which one hopeful contestant takes on 100 opponents in a bid to win cash. Includes the National Lottery draws.

9.05 **Casualty.** It's Harry's last shift and the emotion's too much for him and Selena. There's a vigilante on the rampage who stops Harry from having a smooth exit.

9.55 **When Will I Be Famous?** Graham Norton introduces the winning variety acts from the earlier show to find out who the public at home loved the most. The two most popular face each other for 10,000 pounds.

10.25 **BBC News; Weather.** BBC News; Weather.

10.45 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of today's FA Cup fifth round games, with reaction from the headline-makers and analysis in the studio. Chelsea and Manchester United were both expected to progress.

11.55 **Film: Highlander: Endgame (2000).** Futuristic-fantasy sequel in which two immortal kinsmen who can be killed only by decapitation are forced to battle to the death in a tournament against others of their kind, starring Christopher Lambert and Adrian Paul.

1.35 Joins BBC News 24. BBC2 Saturday February 17, 2007

Audley Harrison takes on Michael Sprott for the EU heavyweight championship. I have no idea who Michael Sprott is but I know damn well who Harrison is. I reckon

I could take on Audley Harrison, well, if he was wounded. He's just too nice a guy. Boxing has no call for nice guys. That's not true either actually, Rocky. All I'm saying is I

want to see some aggression from Harrison. Come on man, live up to your potential.

Andrew Edelston

**BBC
TWO**

6.00 CBeebies: Balamory. 6.20 Tweenies. 6.40 Big Cook Little Cook. 7.00 CBBC: Roar. 7.55 CITV: Tricky Quirkies. 10.00 CITV: Art Attack. 10.20 CITV: The Amazing Adrenalin Brothers. 10.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. 11.30 Saturday Cooks Live. 1.00 ITV News; Weather. 1.05 Calendar News and Weather. 1.10 Planet's Funniest Animals. 1.25 American Idol. 2.25 FILM: Hello Dolly! (1969). Musical, starring Barbra Streisand and Walter Matthau.

5.05 Calendar News, Sport and Weather. 5.20 ITV News; Sports Results; Weather. 5.35 Harry Hill's TV Burp.

6.05 **Dancing on Ice.**

7.20 **Meerkat Manor.** Meerkat Manor. **The Culture Show.** Arts and culture stories of the week, including Ben Lewis, Brett Anderson and Janet Street-Porter on Gilbert and George, and Nick Cave about his Grinderman.

8.05 **Dragons' Den.** Entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to millionaires. Pitches include: a home lip-casting kit; a colourful new take on the rocking horse; and a new kind of garden rake.

9.05 **Comedy Map of Britain.**

10.05 **Never Mind the Buzzcocks.** 10.35 **The Grumpy Guide to Food and Wine.**

11.05 **Have I Got Old News for You.** Comedy quiz show that grills contestants on the week's news, with team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop. Hosted by Boris Johnson with guests Sara Cox and Dr Phil Hammond.

11.35 **Film: Roger Dodger (2003).** Indie comedy drama in which a New York Lothario takes his naive young nephew on an educational trip round the singles scene, but realises that he himself still has a lot to learn, starring Jesse Eisenberg and Isabella Rossellini.

1.15 **The Culture Show.** 2.05 FILM:

Red Ball Express (1952). War, starring Jeff Chandler and Charles Drake. 3.30 **Close**

itv 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 CITV: Horrid Henry. 9.35 CITV: Bel's Boys. 9.50 CITV: Tricky Quirkies. 10.00 CITV: Art Attack. 10.20 CITV: The Amazing Adrenalin Brothers. 10.30 Dickinson's Real Deal. 11.30 Saturday Cooks Live. 1.00 ITV News; Weather. 1.05 Calendar News and Weather. 1.10 Planet's Funniest Animals. 1.25 American Idol. 2.25 FILM: Hello Dolly! (1969). Musical, starring Barbra Streisand and Walter Matthau.

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8.05 **Dancing on Ice - the Skate Off.** Two couples battle it out in the skate-off. No-one wants to leave at this stage - but someone's journey on the ice is about to come to an end as the fifth star leaves the show.

8.50 **PokerFace.** Six more contestants try to bluff their way to 50 grand and a place in the million pound final of Ant and Dec's game show. Will they lose their nerve at the last moment?

9.05 **Al Murray's Happy Hour.** Jerry Springer exchanges chat-show tips with the pub landlord, Emmerdale's latest addition Linda Lusardi also pops in, and soul singer Lemar provides the musical entertainment.

10.05 **ITV News; Weather.**

11.05 **Big Fight Live.** Jim Rosenthal, with boxing legend Barry McGuigan at ringside, presents coverage from Wembley Arena as Audley Harrison takes on Michael Sprott for the EU heavyweight championship.

12.35 **ITV Play: Make Your Play.**

3.55 **Don't Move, Improve.** 4.30 **ITV Nightscreen.** 5.30 **ITV Early Morning News.**

4

6.00 **The Cubez.** 6.10 **The Hoobs.**

6.35 **The Hoobs.** 7.00 **Goalissimo!**

8.00 **The Morning Line.** 8.55 T4: Homemade. 9.25 T4: Friends. 9.55 T4: 4Music Presents... the Killers.

10.30 T4: Popworld. 11.20 T4: Friends. 11.50 T4: Shipwrecked

2007: The Hut Cam Diaries. 12.25 T4: Shipwrecked 2007: Battle of the Islands. 1.30 T4: Homemade.

2.00 **Channel 4 Racing from Wincanton, Uttoxeter, Haydon Park & Gowran Park.** 4.20 **Location, Location, Location.** 4.50 **Deal or No Deal.** 5.35 **The Search.**

6.35 **Channel 4 News.** Including sport and weather.

7.05 **Mary Seacole: The Real Angel of the Crimea.** Documentary about Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole, who became a national heroine during the Crimean War. But by the time of her death in 1881, she had been all but forgotten.

8.05 **Britain's Worst Weather.** Professor Nick Middleton investigates the formidable power of snow, experiencing the effects extreme cold can have on the body and looking at the deadly threat of avalanches.

9.05 **Film: Vera Drake (2004).** Gritty drama in which a working-class woman's life unravels when one of the abortions she undertakes for troubled local girls goes wrong, starring Imelda Staunton and Phil Davis.

11.25 **Film: Rita, Sue and Bob Too (1987).** Riotous sex comedy in which two bored teenage girls escape the squalor of their life in Bradford when their babysitting job turns into a 'menage a trois' with a married man, starring Michelle Holmes and Siobhan Finneran.

1.05 **Film: Sex Lives of the Potato Men (2004).** Comedy, starring Johnny Vegas and Mackenzie Crook. 2.30 **The Jamie Kennedy Experiment.** 3.00 **Wild Things.** 3.45 **London Orbital.** 5.15 **Countdown.**

five

6.00 **Sunrise.** 6.55 **Franklin.** 7.25 **Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends.**

7.35 **Peppa Pig.** 7.45 **Make Way for Noddy.** 8.00 **Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs.** 8.15 **Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs.** 8.30 **Gerald McBoing Boing.** 9.00 **Jane and the Dragon.**

9.30 **Don't Blame the Koalas.** 10.05 **Hercules: Legendary Journeys.** 11.00 **Xcalibur.** 11.35 **The Gadget Show.** 12.25 **Built for the Kill: Predators of the Plains.**

12.55 **Film: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976).** Crime, starring Peter Falk and Jack Cassidy. 2.40 **Film: Ladies Room (1999).** Drama, starring John Malkovich and Molly Parker. 4.20 **Film: Hanging Up (2000).** Drama, starring Walter Matthau and Diane Keaton.

6.10 **Film: The Magnificent Seven Ride! (1972).** The Magnificent Seven ride off to rescue the kidnapped wife of their leader, while also thwarting a band of Mexican bandits, starring Lee Van Cleef and Stefanie Powers.

8.00 **five news and sport.**

8.10 **NCIS.**

9.05 **CSI:NY.** Crime drama series. Danny and Lindsay investigate the death of an 'ice queen' who was murdered with her sceptre.

9.30 **Mac and Stella probe the death of a marathon runner.**

10.05 **Law and Order.** Powerful American drama series. An investigation into the murder of a rock singer is hampered by the unorthodox tactics of a cop-turned-writer.

11.05 **Film: Frantic (1988).** Suspense thriller. The wife of an American doctor vanishes from a Paris hotel room, sending the surgeon on a hectic search that leads into the city's criminal underworld, starring Harrison Ford and Emmanuelle Seigner.

1.15 **Quiz Call.** 5.35 **Wildlife SOS.**

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**BBC
ONE**

6.00 Breakfast. 7.50 Match of the Day. 9.00 Sunday AM. 10.00 Heaven and Earth with Gloria Hunniford. 11.00 Countryfile. 12.00 The Politics Show. 1.00 Match of the Day Live. 3.15 EastEnders. 5.15 Lifeline. 5.25 Wildlife on One. 5.40 Songs of Praise. 6.15 **When Love Comes to Town**. Documentary series which follows 16 strangers searching for love. The final round of dating, and 57-year-old Janet is paired with 40-year-old John to go clay pigeon shooting. 6.45 **Antiques Roadshow**. 7.35 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather**. 8.00 **Rough Diamond**. Drama series set in the horse racing world of rural southern Ireland. Charlie's prize stud is not performing and Aidan has an unorthodox and risky solution to the problem. 9.00 **Waking the Dead**. Police drama series based around cold cases. The arrival of a package containing a Nazi dagger sparks an investigation into the unsolved murder of a Jewish girl in 1945. 10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather**. 10.20 **Jack Dee Live at the Apollo**. Jack Dee presents a series from the Apollo Theatre in London. Jack lays into nursery schools, homework for kids, dentists, Antiques Roadshow and safari ballooning. 11.05 **Film: The River Wild (1994)**. Fast-paced thriller about a young family whose white-water rafting holiday turns into a nightmare when they are taken hostage by a pair of armed fugitives, starring Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon. 12.55 **Sign Zone**: Holby City. 1.55 **Sign Zone**: Can Gerry Robinson Fix the NHS? 2.55 **Sign Zone**: Wanted Down Under. 3.40 Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC
TWO**

6.00 **CBeebies: Balamory**. 6.20 **Tweensies**. 6.40 **Big Cook Little Cook**. 7.00 **CBBC: Batlink**. 7.10 **The Batman**. 7.30 **Smile**. 10.00 **Something for the Weekend**. 11.30 **Planet Food**. 12.00 **Film: Tuesdays with Morrie (1999)**. Drama, starring Jack Lemmon and Hank Azaria. 1.25 **Film: Murder on Sycamore Street (1992)**. Drama, starring Dick Van Dyke and George Hamilton. 3.00 **Rugby Union**. 4.35 **Ski Sunday**. 5.20 **Super League Show**. 5.50 **The Search for Ireland's Giant Turtles**. 6.20 **Natural World**. 7.10 **Meerkat Manor**. 7.35 **Meerkat Manor**. 8.00 **Top Gear**. Motoring show with Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond. Jeremy tries out a Porsche 911 Turbo, and Richard and James try to build a space shuttle out of a Reliant Robin. 9.00 **9/11: The Conspiracy Files**. An investigation of the growing number of conspiracy theories surrounding the 9/11 attacks. With observations from eyewitnesses, this programme tries to separate fact from fiction. 10.00 **The Last 48 Hours of Kurt Cobain**. Using the testimony of people who knew him and of the witnesses who saw him in his last week of life, this programme depicts Kurt Cobain's final hours. 11.20 **Ideal**. Sitcom about a small-time dope dealer. Moz may be falling for new neighbour Judith and thinks he may be being haunted by the ghost of Craig. 11.50 **Family Guy**. Animated comedy series about family life. When Peter runs up a tab, the only way out of paying the bill is to sell Meg. 12.10 **Family Guy**. 12.35 **Film: Lady of Burlesque (1943)**. Drama, starring Barbara Stanwyck and Michael O'Shea. 2.05 Joins BBC News 24. 3.50 **Close Meg**. 12.10 **The Moral of the Story**. 12.35 **ITV Play: Make Your Play**. 4.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. 5.00 **ITV Nightscreen**. 5.30 **ITV Early Morning News**.

itv 1

6.00 **GMTV**. 9.25 **CITV: Horrid Henry**. 9.35 **CITV: Feodor**. 9.45 **CITV: Curious George**. 9.55 **CITV: Pocoyo**. 10.05 **CITV: Jim Jam and Sunny**. 10.20 **CITV: Jim Jam and Sunny**. 10.30 **The Championship**. 11.30 **The Sunday Edition with Andrew Rawnsley and Andrea Catherwood**. 12.30 **Calendar News and Sport**. 12.35 **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries**. 1.40 **American Idol**. 2.40 **Dancing on Ice**. 3.55 **Dancing on Ice - the Skate Off**. 4.25 **Primeval**. 5.25 **12 Books That Changed the World**. 6.25 **Calendar News and Sport**. 6.40 **ITV News: Weather**. 7.00 **Emmerdale**. Rosemary beats the brothers to claim Tom's body. Belle's results are confirmed. Ivy persuades Bob to cancel his interview. Val tries to apologise to Paul. www.itv.com/emmerdale. 7.30 **Coronation Street**. A heartbroken Hayley tries to make amends with Becky. Tracy keeps David sweet. Molly's planning a career change - but how will Kirk take the news? www.itv.com/coronationstreet. 8.00 **Wild at Heart**. Starring Stephen Tompkinson and Amanda Holden. Family harmony is disrupted as Sarah's mother turns up uninvited and interferes with two celebrity guests. Danny settles in a hippo. 9.00 **Lewis**. Kevin Whately stars as DI Lewis. When an Oxford graduate is killed, Lewis and Hathaway launch an investigation that implicates a senior university figure. 11.00 **ITV News: Weather**. 11.10 **The South Bank Show**. Presented by Melvyn Bragg, with Alan Bennett, Shirley Williams and Andrew Motion, marking the centenary of Auden's birth in 1907. His poems are read by John Woodvine. 12.10 **The Moral of the Story**. 12.35 **ITV Play: Make Your Play**. 4.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. 5.00 **ITV Nightscreen**. 5.30 **ITV Early Morning News**.

4

6.00 **Grabbit the Rabbit**. 6.10 **The Hoobs**. 6.35 **The Hoobs**. 7.00 **Trans World Sport**. 7.55 **Bauhaus World Bobblehead Championships 2007**. 8.55 **T4: Popworld**. 9.40 **T4: Goal 2: T4 Movie Special**. 10.15 **T4: Hollyoaks Omnibus**. 12.45 **T4: Shipwrecked 2007**. The Hut Cam Diaries. 1.20 **T4: Friends**. 1.55 **T4: Beauty and the Geek**. 2.55 **T4: The OC**. 3.55 **T4: Ugly Betty**. 4.55 **Deal or No Deal**. 5.45 **Time Team**. 6.40 **Shipwrecked 2007: Battle of the Islands**. Desert island reality series in which two rival groups are marooned on neighbouring islands in the South Pacific. New arrival Jo bonds with shark barber Lorenzo. 7.45 **Channel 4 News**. Including sport and weather. 8.00 **Feral Children**. In 2001, the world was stunned by film of a Ukrainian girl who had been brought up by dogs. This film follows her progress since then. 9.00 **Film: Gladiator (2000)**. Award-winning action drama, set in Roman times, about a powerful general who is forced to become a common gladiator when he falls out of favour with the emperor's son, starring Russell Crowe and Joaquin Phoenix. 11.45 **Live from Abbey Road**. The best musical talent around filmed in performance at the legendary Abbey Road Studios in London. With appearances from The Feeling, The Killers and Gnarls Barkley. 12.55 **4Music Presents... Magic Numbers**. 1.20 **4 Music: The Album Chart Show**. 1.50 **Our Survey Said: The Ultimate Game Show**. 2.20 **Monsters**. 3.30 **Film: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998)**. Drama, starring Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro. 5.25 **Countdown**.

Gladiator

9:00pm
Channel 4

**Sunday
February
18**
five

6.00 **Tickle, Patch and Friends**. 6.25 **Old Bear Stories**. 6.35 **Sailor Sid**. 6.40 **Bird Bath**. 6.50 **Franklin**. 7.20 **Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends**. 7.30 **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. 7.45 **Make Way for Noddy**. 8.00 **Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs**. 8.15 **Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs**. 8.30 **Gerald McBoing Boing**. 9.00 **Jane and the Dragon**. 9.30 **What Makes Me Happy**. 9.45 **Demolition Dad**. 10.00 **Round the Twist**. 10.30 **Hospital**. 11.00 **Snobs**. 11.35 **RAD: The Groms Tour the Baltics**. 12.05 **Rooted**. 12.35 **Revelations**. 1.10 **five news update**. 1.15 **Divine Designs**. 1.45 **Film: Chief Crazy Horse (1955)**. Western, starring Victor Mature and Susan Ball. 3.25 **Film: All the Young Men (1960)**. War, starring Sidney Poitier and Alan Ladd. 5.00 **five news and sport**. 5.05 **Film: Batman of the Future: Return of the Joker (2000)**. Animation. 6.35 **Film: Batman Returns (1992)**. The caped crusader needs help from the rubber-suited Catwoman when he comes up against the Penguin, a grotesque supervillain whose evil plans threaten the citizens of Gotham City, starring Michael Keaton and Michelle Pfeiffer. 9.00 **Film: Miss Congeniality (2000)**. Farcical comedy about a female FBI agent who reluctantly goes undercover as a contestant on a beauty pageant in a bid to prevent a terrorist group from bombing the event, starring Sandra Bullock and Benjamin Bratt. 11.10 **Disorderly Conduct**. Real-life car crashes, drug busts and high-speed pursuits. Dangerous driving causes a nine-vehicle pile-up on a busy freeway. And an unruly suspect smashes up a police vehicle. 12.10 **NASCAR Nextel Cup**. 3.10 **UEFA Cup Football**: Bayer Leverkusen v Blackburn Rovers. 4.40 **UEFA Cup Football**: Besiktas v Tottenham Hotspur.

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FLYTIME
latin jazz, old skool funk & soul
Northern Light
VERY VERY VERY
WRONG INDEED
edgy house

Nu
ELECTRO THERAPY
The Subculture
SUNDAY CLUB
goth night

Twilite
PRAISE
funky/ electro vocal
house with DJs

Wire
KLICK
hip-hop, reggae & r'n'b
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Monday
February
19



club
Bondi Beach Club
MENTAL MONDAY
student night

Evolution
MONKEY MAGIC
stage based student
night, launch night

Hifi Club
SWEET REVIVAL
r'n'b, hip hop & soul with
DJs Benji Boko, Martin R
& Mark Poppy Luton

Nu
HUMP
singles night

Oceana
RENDEZVOUS
funky house, dance,
r'n'b, hip hop & disco

Queens Court
THE PINK POUND
chart & dance music

Tiger Tiger
VODKA ISLAND
Balearic beats, live funk,
chilled out r'n'b

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28th Feb.: **LITTLE MAN TATE**
1st Mar.: **THE STONE ROSES EXPERIENCE***
5th Mar.: **THE RAPTURE***
8th Mar.: **LCD SOUNDSYSTEM***
18th Mar.: **IDLEWILD***
19th Apr.: **THE PIPETTES***
9th May.: **KLAXONS***
3rd Jun.: **MARILLION***

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BBC ONE

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Gene Detectives. 10.00 Homes under the Hammer. 11.00 Living in the Sun. 11.45 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News and Weather. 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors. 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.25 CBBC: ChuckleVision. 3.40 Time Warp Trio. 4.00 Raven. 4.30 Best of Friends. 5.00 MI High. 5.30 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours.

6.00 BBC News and Weather. 6.30 Look North; Weather. 7.00 Mission Africa. 7.30 My Family. Ben is unhappy with his lot, but is even less happy with Susan's book-writing house guest. 8.00 EastEnders. Tanya accuses Max of having an affair, and Denise makes a decision about her family's future. 8.30 Panorama. As the Iraq war approaches its fifth year, army families angered by what they see as public apathy and government embarrassment, speak out for the first time. 9.00 Waking the Dead. Further horrific discoveries are made at the London house where the Nazi dagger was found. 10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Sleep Clinic. Documentary series about the sleep clinic at Papworth Hospital. The sleep team reveal the truth of Malcolm's nocturnal howling and night time chattering to his baffled wife. 11.05 Film 2007 with Jonathan Ross. 11.35 The Royle Family. 12.05 FILM: Something Wild (1986). Black Comedy, starring Melanie Griffith and Jeff Daniels. 2.00 Sign Zone: Louis Theroux: Gambling in Las Vegas. 3.00 Sign Zone: The Truth About Food. 4.00 Sign Zone: Wanted Down Under. 4.45 Joins BBC News 24.

5.00 BBC Learning Zone: Languages and Travel: Real Chinese 1-10. 4.30 Talk Portuguese. 10.00 Mock the Week. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 21st Century Bach. JS Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C (BWV 564) is played by organist John Scott Whiteley, in the Church of St Jacobi, Hamburg. 11.40 FILM: Cosi (1996). 1.15 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Languages and Travel: Real Chinese 1-10. 4.30 Talk Portuguese. 10.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 WAGs Boutique. The battle to be the retail queens of the fashion kingdom continues. Peter Jones sets the first task - to build and market their own boutique website. June Sarpong presents. 12.00 Champions League Weekly. 12.30 ITV Play: Glitterball. 3.50 Dial A Mum. 4.25 Dial A Mum. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

BBC TWO

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 7.00 Something Special. 7.15 Numberjacks. 7.30 Boogie Bees. 7.45 Underground Emie. 8.00 CBBC: Wonderful World of Weird. 8.50 Newsround. 8.55 Beat the Boss. 9.20 Lizzie McGuire. 9.45 Legend of the Dragon. 10.10 Zombie Hotel. 10.35 Even Stevens. 11.00 Top Cat. 11.25 The Munsters. 11.50 Dangermouse. 12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30 Working Lunch. 1.00 Animal Park. 1.30 Live FA Cup Sixth Round Draw. 1.45 Hands on Nature. 2.15 Perfect Strangers. 2.45 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Ready Steady Cook. 5.15 Weakest Link.

6.00 Nature's Calendar. 6.30 MasterChef Goes Large. 7.00 Mythbusters. Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage set out to verify urban myths by using modern-day science. Is it safe to flush a toilet on a plane, while sitting on it?

7.30 Nation on Film: Package Holidays. David Jason tells the story of how film was used to promote and record package-tour holidays in the 1960s, selling the sun, sea and sand of the continent to a new audience.

8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 An Island Parish. After a tearful farewell in his old mainland parish, Father Guy and family at last arrive to begin their new lives on Scilly. 9.00 Five Ways to Save the World. Could they stop global warming dead in its tracks, or are these the crazy ideas of mad scientists in white coats?

10.00 Mock the Week. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 21st Century Bach. JS Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C (BWV 564) is played by organist John Scott Whiteley, in the Church of St Jacobi, Hamburg. 11.40 FILM: Cosi (1996). 1.15 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Languages and Travel: Real Chinese 1-10. 4.30 Talk Portuguese. 10.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 WAGs Boutique. The battle to be the retail queens of the fashion kingdom continues. Peter Jones sets the first task - to build and market their own boutique website. June Sarpong presents. 12.00 Champions League Weekly. 12.30 ITV Play: Glitterball. 3.50 Dial A Mum. 4.25 Dial A Mum. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

Hate is an inconvenient emotion. That is why I'd recommend that everyone who's ever watched The Catherine Tate Show should watch The Bad Mother's

Handbook and give the woman a chance to redeem herself. As proven by her appearance in Doctor Who over Christmas, when Tate's not dishing out annoying catchphrases she can actually act pretty damn well, so this new comedy drama might in fact be worth a watch.

Clare Pidsley

ITV 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Emmerdale

Confidential. 3.30 Dancing on Ice

Exclusive. 3.55 Kavanagh QC. 5.30 Dale's Supermarket Sweep.

6.00 Calendar.

6.30 ITV Evening News;

Weather.

7.00 Emmerdale. Bob is

surprised when Eddie turns up. Val mopes on her birthday. Zak is struck by how alone Rosemary seems. Lisa feels awkward after bumping into Eddie.

7.30 Coronation Street. Tracy panics when David has a change of heart. Steve continues to try and make Michelle jealous. Amber oversteps the mark with Molly.

8.00 Road Price Protest: Tonight. Record levels of protest have met government plans to introduce a pay-as-you-go road pricing system to combat congestion. Linda Dubrey meets the drivers leading the rebellion.

8.30 Coronation Street. David makes Tracy an indecent proposal. Ashley impersonates a woman to help Claire out. Michelle wonders if there's more to Sonny than meets the eye.

9.00 The Bad Mother's Handbook. Catherine Tate stars in a comedy drama. When Karen Cooper agrees to go on a school trip, she opens a Pandora's Box that threatens to change her life for ever.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 WAGs Boutique. The battle to be the retail queens of the fashion kingdom continues. Peter Jones sets the first task - to build and market their own boutique website. June Sarpong presents.

12.00 Champions League Weekly.

12.30 ITV Play: Glitterball. 3.50 Dial A Mum. 4.25 Dial A Mum. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

4

6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs.

7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30

Friends. 8.00 Everybody Loves

Raymond. 8.30 Everybody Loves

Raymond. 8.55 Frasier. 9.25 Will

and Grace. 9.55 FILM: Kiki's

Delivery Service (1989). Animation.

12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 FILM:

Whirlpool (1949). Thriller, starring

Gene Tierney and Jose Ferrer. 2.15

British Made. 2.25 A Place in the

Sun. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal

or No Deal. 5.00 Richard and Judy.

6.00 The Simpsons.

6.30 Hollyoaks. Louise wants

Justin out of the house; Sonny wants to stand by

his mate, and Clavin is

caught in the middle. Kris is

terrified of having to tell

Jessica about his

'diagnosis'.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.55 3 Minute Wonder:

Deutsche Borse

Photography Prize

2007.

8.00 Dispatches: The

Supermarket That's

Eating Britain.

A look at the aggressive expansion plans of Tesco, Britain's favourite supermarket. It already has 2000 stores and 15 million customers a week, but is set to become even bigger.

9.00 Hypochondriacs: I Told You I Was Ill. The award-winning series returns with a film following the lives of four people suffering from Health Anxiety Disorder.

10.00 ER. Morris and Sam struggle to treat an aggressive patient who refuses treatment. Neela and Gates clash during a hospital review board meeting.

11.05 The Sex Inspectors. This programme focuses on newlyweds Kelly and Sean.

11.55 4 Music: Live from

Abbey Road.

12.55 When Kim and Aggie Went to Hospital. 1.55 The Insider: Kidneys for Sale. 2.20 Dispatches: The Supermarket That's Eating Britain. 3.10 Cutting Edge: Gridlock. 4.10 Toulouse Lautrec: The Full Story.

The Bad Mother's Handbook

9:00 p.m.

ITV

five

6.00 Tickle, Patch and Friends.

6.35 Bird Bath. 6.45 Hi-5. 7.30

The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill

and His Best Friend Corky. 7.45

Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Fifi and

the Flowerots. 8.25 Thomas &

Friends. 8.35 Sailor Sid. 8.40

Roobarb and Custard Too. 8.50

Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff.

10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five

news. 12.00 Home and Away.

12.30 BrainTeaser. 1.30 FILM:

Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975).

Crime, starring Peter Falk and

Patrick McGoohan. 3.35 five news

update. 4.40 FILM: Mary Higgins Clark's Pretend You Don't See Her (2002). 5.30 five news.

6.00 Home and Away. Rocco hears the gang are going to break into Sally's house and tries to prevent it by finding them another target.

Out of Practice. five news.

The Gadget Show.

Monster Moves. In

London, 20 underground train carriages must be lowered into a tunnel. A Fokker plane is raised from a Canadian lake bed.

Extraordinary People: The Twins who Share a Body. Documentary telling the remarkable story of Abby and Brittany Hensel, the world's only known dicephalus conjoined twins.

10.00 Prison Break. Michael, Tweener, Lincoln and T-Bag embark on a risky plan to get to the money. Sara's father makes a startling discovery.

11.00 The World's Most Shocking Ads. Spoof French rockers Prioite a Gauche take a peek at the rudest and the crudest commercials from around the world.

12.05 Arrest and Trial. 12.35

Arrest and Trial. 1.00

USPGA Golf. 1.50 NASCAR

Nextel Cup. 2.40 Le

Championnat - French

Football. 3.30 Now Is the

Time: Night of Combat -

Kick Boxing. 4.20 Boxing

Fight of the Week. 5.00

UEFA Cup Football: Zulte

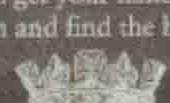
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COMPETITION DEADLINE
23TH FEBRUARY





BBC ONE

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Gene Detectives. 10.00 Homes under the Hammer. 11.00 Living in the Sun. 11.45 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News and Weather. 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors. 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather, Regional News. 3.25 CBBC: ChuckleVision. 3.40 Time Warp Trio. 4.00 Raven. 4.30 SMart. 5.00 Blue Peter. 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours. 6.00 BBC News and Weather. 6.30 Look North; Weather. 7.00 Watchdog. 7.30 EastEnders. Tanya's birthday looks about to be ruined. Phil tries to help Ben through the anniversary of Kathy's death. Chelsea stands up to Denise. 8.00 Holby City. Tension between Harvey and Kyla reaches boiling point. Greedy Donna comes back down to earth with a bump. Elliot realises what he must do about Martha. 9.00 Life on Mars. Drama series about a detective who wakes up in what seems to be 1973. A spate of armed robberies lead the CID unit to prison, to escort safe-cracker Dickie Fingers for interview. 10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.35 ONE Life. Documentary about the British Toilet Association, which campaigns for more and better public lavatories in the UK, and its annual Loo of the Year competition. 11.15 FILM: Buster (1988). The story of small-time crook Buster Edwards who joins the Great Train Robbers dreaming of the good life, only to have to flee with his unhappy family to Mexico, starring Phil Collins and Julie Walters. 12.55 Sign Zone: See Hear. 1.40 Sign Zone: Seaside Rescue. 2.10 Sign Zone: An Island Parish. 2.40 Sign Zone: Dr Alice Roberts; Don't Die Young. 3.10 Sign Zone: Wanted Down Under. 3.55 Joins BBC News 24.

If you really are what you eat, Gillian McKeith's diet must consist of female dog meat and a dried-up prune faced cow. In this programme she invites overweight people to

come and live with her in her house. But after being sniggered at smugly as they struggle to drag their suitcases up the stairs, her lodgers are forced to drink

vegetables and shit in a Tupperware box. Not really what I'd call hospitality.

Clare Pidsley

BBC TWO

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.40 Balamory. 7.15 Numberjacks. 7.30 Boogie Babies. 7.45 Underworld: Ernie. 8.00 CBBC: Wonderful World of Weird. 8.50 Newsround. 9.20 Lizzie McGuire. 10.10 Zombie Hotel. 10.35 Even Stevens. 11.00 Top Cat. 11.50 Dangermouse. 12.00 The Daily Politics. 12.30 Working Lunch. 1.00 Animal Park. 1.45 Hands on Nature. 2.15 Perfect Strangers. 2.45 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Ready Steady Cook. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 Nature's Calendar. 6.30 Masterchef Goes Large. 7.00 The Madness of Modern Families. 7.30 Sleep Clinic. 8.00 Rick Stein's Food Heroes: Another Helping. A gastronomic tour of Britain as Rick Stein and Chalky continue their culinary quest with a visit to Smithfield meat market in London. 8.30 Dr Alice Roberts: Don't Die Young. Health documentary series with anatomist Dr Alice Roberts. In this final episode, she looks at the most complex organ - the brain. 9.00 Blair: The Inside Story. Michael Cockerell tells the inside story of Tony Blair's controversial ten years at the top. Part One of this three-part series covers the years up to 9/11. 10.00 The Children of Helen House. This week a family is comforted as the son comes to the end of his life. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.20 Trust Me I'm a Healer. Tony Chadwick uses strange homemade props - like a crown of thorns - and specialises in treating infertility. 11.50 A Seaside Parish. The school's headmaster and his family begin their new life on the Isles of Scilly, but what kind of future do they face? 12.20 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 ReviseWise at Home: KS2 Parents and Children - English. 4.00 ReviseWise Challenge at Home: KS2 English.

itv 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Emmerdale. 3.30 Dancing on Ice Exclusive. 3.55 Kavanagh QC. 5.30 Dale's Supermarket Sweep. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. A mystery mourner arrives at Tom's funeral. Viv is furious with Bob for accepting the job. The villagers toast Tom's demise. 7.30 UEFA Champions League Live: Manchester United v Lille. Action from the Stade Félix-Bollaert in Lens as Manchester United hope to erase memories of last year's competition when they lost 1-0 away to the French team. 10.00 Confessions... Real life stories of how estate agents abuse their power, including a look at the secret code they use to get you to part with your cash. 10.30 ITV News; Weather. 11.00 UEFA Champions League Highlights. Arsenal travel to Holland to face PSV Eindhoven, while Manchester United are in France to play Lille, and Celtic host AC Milan at Celtic Park. Jim Rosenthal presents the action. 12.00 ITV Play: Glitterball. 3.35 2003... Forever. 4.35 The Jules and Lulu Show. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

4

6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Friends. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. 8.55 Frasier. 9.30 Will and Grace. 10.30 Mesh. 10.35 FILM: The Cat Returns (2002). 12.00 News at Noon. 12.30 FILM: The Captive Heart (1946). Drama, starring Michael Redgrave and Mervyn Johns. 2.20 Supporting Acts. 2.30 A Place in the Sun. 3.30 Countdown. 4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Richard and Judy. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. Jessica and Kris struggle to come to terms with the possibility that they might have HIV. Will is delighted by his little charade, but how long can he keep it up? 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 3 Minute Wonder: Deutsche Borse Photography Prize 2007. 8.00 You Are What You Eat: Gillian Moves In. Diet doctor Gillian McKeith invites another two members of the public into her home to get them into shape. Gillian plays host to two overweight mother and daughter pairings. 9.00 Never Did Me Any Harm. Mini-series in which children from four families live as their parents did when they were young for two weeks. A father-of-four enforces a 1950's style regime on his sons. 10.00 Shameless. Explosions across the estate spark fears that Chatsworth is a terrorist target. 11.05 The Sex Inspectors. A young couple hope to rekindle their once passionate sex life. 11.55 Friday Night Project. Tonight's guest host is Ashley Jensen. 1.00 My Name Is Earl. 1.30 Distraction. 2.00 The War at Home. 2.25 The War at Home. 2.50 Bob and Margaret. 3.15 Bob and Margaret. 3.40 The Jamie Kennedy Experiment. 4.05 Robinson Crusoe: The True Story. 5.05 Best of Scrapheap Challenge.

five

6.00 Tickle, Patch and Friends. 6.25 Old Bear Stories. 6.35 Bird Bath. 6.45 Hi-5. 7.20 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. 7.30 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Fifi and the Flowerots. 8.15 Peppa Pig. 8.25 Thomas & Friends. 8.35 Sailor Sid. 8.40 Roobarb and Custard Too. 8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30 five news. 12.00 Home and Away. 12.30 BrainTeaser. 1.40 FILM: Rain (2001). Adventure, starring Susan Dey and Scott Cooper. 3.40 FILM: Family of Strangers (1993). Drama, starring Melissa Gilbert and Patty Duke. 5.30 five news. 6.00 Home and Away. Peter becomes the second hostage at Amanda's house, and admits that he is addicted to drugs. 6.30 Out of Practice. 7.00 five news. 7.15 Tim Marlow on... Hogarth with Ian Hislop. Ian Hislop joins Five's resident art expert Tim Marlow to view an exclusive preview of the landmark 'Hogarth' exhibition at Tate Britain. 8.00 Stonehenge: The True Story. Historical documentary which looks at a startling new theory as to how and why this archaeological enigma was built. 9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team investigate when two nuns find a woman crucified in the rafters of their church - and clues implicate the priest. 10.00 CSI: Miami. The team investigate the murder of a teenage girl partying in Miami on her way to the Bahamas with her high-school class. 11.00 True CSI. The last programme examines the case of multi-millionaire casino boss Ted Binion, who was found dead in his Las Vegas mansion. 12.00 The FBI Files. 1.00 NBA Action. 4.05 Race and Rally UK. 4.30 Motorsport Mundial. 4.55 World Supercross Grand Prix.

You Are What You Eat: Gillian Moves In

8:00p.m

Channel 4

Tuesday
February
20

club

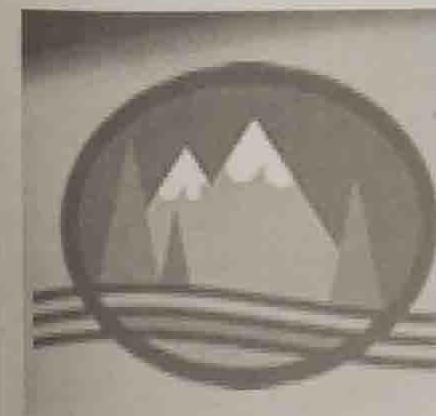
Baja Beach Club
THE WORM
student night
Cockpit
SLAM DUNK
punk, ska, emo, punk
Flares
THE HUSTLE
HiFi Club
DYSLEXIC DICSO
electro, new wave, rock
Mook
MOLOTOV COCKTAIL
indie, rock, funk, dance
Nu
TUITY FRUITY
live funky house
Revolution, Call Lane
VODFEST
student cheese
University, Mine
THE TUNNEL CLUB
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6th Mar.: **JET***
8th Mar.: **INSPIRAL CARPETS***
9th Mar.: **DEFTONES**
17th Mar.: **EROL ALKAN***
21st Mar.: **!!! CHK CHK CHK***
29th Mar.: **BARENAKED LADIES***
9th May: **MANIC STREET PREACHERS***
12th May: **THE SUNSHINE UNDERGROUND***

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Wednesday
February
21



Never trust Greeks. Anyway this Wednesday, witness the splendour that is Troy. When Paris steals Menelaus' wife all hell breaks loose and it is up to Hector to defend

his beloved Troy against the invading Greeks, led by Agamemnon. Hot on their heels is the ridiculously talented Achilles. He happens to be the best warrior who ever

lived. I would have preferred Hector to win. Sorry if I've ruined anything.

Andrew Edelston

Troy

9:00pm

ITV

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1960s, y

club

Baja Beach Club
STUDENT REVOLUTION student night

Cockpit PANIC indie, 60s rock'n'roll

Creation MILKSHAKE student night

Fab Café GO YOU BIG RED FIRE ENGINE art rock to hip hop

Fudge SYNTHIA electro disco, d'n'b

Hifi Club MOVEONUP Motown, funk, 60s beat

Mission MISSIONARY house, dance, d'n'b

Mook MIND THE GAP electro, pop, punk-funk

Walkabout STUDENT NIGHT with DJ Andy Oliver

gigs

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LOGISTICS* 10th Mar. @ Leeds Warehouse

BLEEP BLEEP TOUR* 11th Mar. @ Cockpit

THE FALL* Leeds Irish Centre: 21st Mar.

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forget the rest



BBC
ONE

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Gene Detectives. 10.00 Homes under the Hammer. 11.00 Living in the Sun. 11.45 Car Booty. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News and Weather. 1.40 Neighbours. 2.05 Doctors. 2.35 Diagnosis Murder. 3.20 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.25 CBBC: ChuckleVision. 3.40 Time Warp Trio. 4.00 Raven. 4.30 Best of Friends. 5.00 Blue Peter. 5.25 Newsround. 5.35 Neighbours.

6.00 BBC News and Weather. 6.30 Look North; Weather. 7.00 Holiday 2007.

7.30 Real Story with Fiona Bruce. With pressure on the Department for Transport to make its test tougher for teenagers, three 18-year-olds, who passed first time, are put through its own advanced road exam.

8.00 Seaside Rescue. Documentary series following the work of maritime rescue services. When red flares are spotted off Weymouth, there's no time to lose for the lifeboat crew and the coastguard.

9.00 New Street Law. Drama series about two rival barristers' chambers in Manchester. Jack is granted bail following his arrest for perverting the cause of justice and is determined to fight his case.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.35 The National Lottery Draws.

10.40 The 34 Stone Teenager. Documentary about Bethany Walton, who at 34 stone is Britain's heaviest teen. In an attempt to save her life and restore her body image, she undergoes potentially fatal surgery.

11.40 FILM: The One and Only (2002).

1.10 Sign Zone: The Meaning of Life. 1.40 Sign Zone: Wild Caribbean. 2.30 Sign Zone: The Madness of Modern Families. 3.00 Sign Zone: Wanted Down Under. 3.45 Joins BBC News 24.

BBC
TWO

6.00 CBeebies: Fimbles. 6.20 The Story Makers. 6.40 Balamory. 7.00 Something Special. 7.15 Numberjacks. 7.30 Boogie Beebies. 7.45 Underground Ernie. 8.00 CBBC: Wonderful World of Weird. 8.50 Newsround. 8.55 Beat the Boss. 9.20 Lizzie McGuire. 9.45 Legend of the Dragon. 10.10 Zombie Hotel. 10.35 Even Stevens. 11.00 Top Cat. 11.30 The Daily Politics. 1.00 Lifeline. 1.10 The Flying Gardener. 1.30 Working Lunch. 2.00 Small Town Gardens. 2.15 Perfect Strangers. 2.45 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Flog It! 4.30 Ready Steady Cook. 5.15 Weakest Link.

6.00 Nature's Calendar. 6.30 Masterchef Goes Large.

7.00 Top Gear. Motoring show with Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond. Jeremy tries out a Porsche 911 Turbo, and Richard and James try to build a space shuttle out of a Reliant Robin.

8.00 Dragons' Den. 9.00 Party Animals. 9.50 Don't Watch That Watch This!

This! Satirical pastiche using fake footage. Did George Bush really say Donald Rumsfeld was a menace, and does Patricia Hewitt normally admit Tony Blair is having a baby?

10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Comedy pop quiz with host Simon Amstell and team captains Bill Bailey and Phill Jupitus. The guests are Romeo, Midge Ure, Nicholas Hoult and Russell Howard.

10.30 Newsnight. Emily Maitlis introduces comprehensive coverage of the day's important national and international news stories.

11.20 My Family and Autism. Luke tells the story of his family: of his six siblings, his three brothers are also autistic, and their mother is on a constant search for anything that can improve their lives.

12.20 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Schools: Key Stage 3 Bitesize Revision English 1. 4.00 Key Stage 3 Bitesize Revision Maths 1.

itv 1

6.00 GMTV. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.00 Midsomer Murders. 3.00 Emmerdale. Confidential. 3.30 Dancing on Ice Exclusive. 3.55 Kavanagh QC. 5.30 Will and Grace. 10.20 FILM: The Brave Little Toaster (1987).

6.00 Calendar. Regional news, interviews and features. Including local weather.

6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather. The latest national and international news.

7.00 Emmerdale. The Kings are shocked to find that they have a sister. Debbie is furious to discover that her first taxi booking is a hoax.

Terry spends time with T.J. www.itv.com/emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. Ken and Deirdre risk their home to save Tracy's bacon. Hayley desperately tries to win back Becky's trust. David is excited by the promise of passion. www.itv.com/coronationstreet.

8.00 The Bill. A child's body is found on an allotment and it turns out to be the baby of a friend of the Tenant family. Emma and Diane discover a flock of sheep in an abandoned van.

9.00 FILM: Troy (2004). When Trojan prince Paris woos Helen, Queen of Sparta, away from her husband Menelaus, the legendary warrior Achilles leads the armies of Greece against the city fortress of Troy, starring Brad Pitt and Eric Bana.

10.30 ITV News; Weather. The latest national and international news, plus national weather. Including local news programmes.

11.00 FILM: Troy Action Conclusion of the spectacular adaptation of Homer's epic poem, starring Brad Pitt and Eric Bana.

12.30 Benidorm. 12.55 ITV Play: Glitterball. 4.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Early Morning News.

4

6.05 Making It. 6.10 The Hoobs.

6.35 The Hoobs. 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Friends. 8.00

Everybody Loves Raymond. 8.25

Everybody Loves Raymond. 8.55

Frasier. 9.25 Will and Grace. 9.55

Will and Grace. 10.20 FILM: The

Brave Little Toaster (1987).

Animation, starring Jon Lovitz and Tim Stack. 12.00 News at Noon.

12.30 FILM: Fanny by Gaslight (1944). Drama, starring Phyllis Calvert and James Mason. 2.30 A

Place in the Sun. 3.30 Countdown.

4.15 Deal or No Deal. 5.00

Richard and Judy.

6.00 The Simpsons.

6.30 Hollyoaks.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.55 3 Minute Wonder: Deutsche Börse Photography Prize

2007. Profiles of

photographers shortlisted

for the prestigious prize.

Walid Raad's Atlas Group

project combines fictitious

and authentic documents to

trace the modern history of

Lebanon.

8.00 Relocation, Relocation.

9.00 Jamie's Chef.

10.00 Desperate Housewives.

Black comedy drama set in

suburban America. Gabrielle

is persuaded to help coach

local beauty pageant

contestants, but the girls'

mothers are less than

impressed.

11.05 The Sex Inspectors.

Three-part series offers

advice to couples who are

having problems in the

bedroom. Olivia and Simon

have a baby daughter, but

their relationship has

reached a sexual stalemate.

11.55 Goalissimo! Weekly

round-up of all the best

football action from around

the world.

12.55 Bauhaus World Bobsleigh

Championships 2007. 1.55 KOTV.

2.25 Trans World Sport. 3.20 Red

Bull Air Race 2006. 4.10 Scrapheap

Challenge USA. 5.10 Supporting

Acts. 5.25 Countdown.

five

6.00 Tickle, Patch and Friends.

6.25 Old Bear Stories. 6.35 Bird

Bath. 6.45 Hi-5. 7.20 Miss Spider's

Sunny Patch Friends. 7.30 The

Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and

His Best Friend Corky. 7.45 Make

Way for Noddy. 8.00 Fifi and the

Flowerpots. 8.15 Peppa Pig. 8.25

Thomas & Friends. 8.35 Sailor Sid.

8.40 Roobarb and Custard Too.

8.50 Mio Mao. 9.00 The Wright

Stuff. 10.30 Trisha Goddard. 11.30

five news. 12.00 Home and Away.

12.30 BrainTeaser. 1.40 FILM:

Race against Time (2000). Drama,

starring Eric Roberts and Cas

Anvar. 3.40 FILM: Columbo: Sex

and the Married Detective (1989).

Crime, starring Peter Falk and

Lindsay Crouse. 5.30 five news.

7.15 Great Ocean

Adventures: The White

Whale. Underwater

adventure series with

daredevil explorer Monty

Halls. In this programme,

Monty is in the cold waters

of Canada on the trail of the white - or beluga - whale.

8.00 Child in a Million. Series

of documentaries exploring

rare medical conditions and

pioneering treatments at

Great Ormond Street

Hospital. This episode

features Molly and Tahlia.

FILM: Message in a

Bottle (1999). Romantic

drama about a divorcee

whose life is radically

changed when she finds a

message in a bottle written

by a widower to his late


**BBC
ONE**

6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 **Gene Detectives**. 10.00 **Homes under the Hammer**. 11.00 **Living in the Sun**. 11.45 **Car Booty**. 12.15 **Bargain Hunt**. 1.00 **BBC News; Weather**. 1.30 **Regional News and Weather**. 1.40 **Neighbours**. 2.05 **Doctors**. 2.35 **Diagnosis Murder**. 3.20 **BBC News; Weather**; **Regional News**. 3.25 **CBBC**: **ChuckleVision**. 3.40 **Time Warp Trio**. 4.00 **Raven**. 4.30 **Smart**. 5.00 **Blue Peter**. 5.25 **Newsround**. 5.35 **Neighbours**. 6.00 **BBC News and Weather**. 6.30 **Look North; Weather**. 7.00 **Street Doctor**. 7.30 **EastEnders**. Max thinks he's back in control, but Stacey has a confession to make. Pat helps out an ungrateful Bert, and Preeti's attempts to impress Mickey don't go according to plan. 8.00 **Waterloo Road**. Drama series set in a failing comprehensive school. Tom's career and relationship hang in the balance as Kim and Andrew work together to find the truth behind Stacy's allegations. 9.00 **Hotel Babylon**. Drama series set in a luxury five star hotel. A Premiership football team visit Hotel Babylon and their vile behaviour toward the hotel staff tips Tony over the edge. 10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather**. BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 10.35 **Question Time**. Topical debate from Edinburgh, chaired by David Dimbleby. 11.35 **This Week**. A political review of the week presented by Andrew Neil and his resident helpers Michael Portillo and Diane Abbott. 12.25 **Sign Zone**: **Panorama**. 12.55 **Sign Zone**: **When Love Comes to Town**. 1.25 **Sign Zone**: **Mission Africa**. 1.55 **Sign Zone**: **The Children of Helen House**. 2.25 **Sign Zone**: **Wanted Down Under**. 3.10 Joins BBC News 24.

**BBC
TWO**

6.00 **CBeebies**: **Fimbles**. 6.20 **The Story Makers**. 6.40 **Balamory**. 7.00 **Something Special**. 7.15 **Numberjacks**. 7.30 **Boogie Beebies**. 7.45 **Underground Ernie**. 8.00 **CBBC**: **Wonderful World of Weird**. 8.50 **Newsround**. 8.55 **Beat the Boss**. 9.20 **Lizzie McGuire**. 9.45 **Legend of the Dragon**. 10.10 **Zombie Hotel**. 10.35 **Even Stevens**. 11.00 **Top Cat**. 11.25 **The Munsters**. 11.50 **Dangermouse**. 12.00 **The Daily Politics**. 12.30 **Working Lunch**. 1.00 **Animal Park**. 1.45 **Hands on Nature**. 2.15 **Perfect Strangers**. 2.45 **Escape to the Country**. 3.45 **Flog It!**. 4.30 **Ready Steady Cook**. 5.15 **Weakest Link**. 6.00 **Nature's Calendar**. 6.30 **MasterChef Goes Large**. 7.00 **Dr Alice Roberts: Don't Die Young**. Health documentary series with anatomist Dr Alice Roberts. In this final episode, she looks at the most complex organ - the brain. 7.30 **Rick Stein's Food Heroes: Another Helping**. A gastronomic tour of Britain as Rick Stein and Chalky continue their culinary quest. Rick fishes for sardines off Newlyn Bay and visits the Abergavenny Food Festival. 8.00 **Did They Pay Off Their Mortgage in Two Years?** 9.00 **Fear, Stress and Anger**. Forced to work from home, all Martin Chadwick's angst and frustration comes out in one day when his working wife, Julie gives him a list of domestic chores to do. 9.30 **Dead Ringers**. 10.00 **The Graham Norton Show**. 10.30 **Newsnight**. 11.20 BBC Four on BBC Two: **Time Shift: Planet Ping Pong**. The story of table tennis and how it became the most popular sport in Asia. Contributors include Britain's only world champion Johnny Leach. 12.20 **Journeys to the Bottom of the Sea**. 1.20 Joins BBC News 24. 2.00 **BBC Learning Zone: Schools**: Key Stage 3 Bitesize Revision: Science 1. 4.00 **Class Clips**. 5.00 **Spanish Shorts**.

Great script. That's what this film is all about. And sound, the sound editing is spot on. However, there is also one other feature of the film that is worth a brief mention; a three-

some, and the cool kind at that! Two women and one man. Not just any women mind, Denise Richards and Neve Campbell. I don't actually even know what this film's

about. Oh you see Kevin Bacon's cock as well. Something for everyone then.

Andrew Edelston

itv 1

6.00 **GMTV**. 9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show**. 10.30 **This Morning**. 12.30 **Loose Women**. 1.30 **ITV Lunctime News; Weather**. 2.00 **Midsomer Murders**. 3.00 **Emmerdale**. 3.30 **Dancing on Ice Confidential**. 3.55 **Kavanagh QC**. 5.30 **Dale's Supermarket Sweep**. 6.00 **Calendar**. 6.30 **ITV Evening News; Weather**. 7.00 **Emmerdale**. 7.30 **The Way We Were**. Nostalgic series using archive film and real-life experiences to illustrate how life has changed over the past 100 years. 8.00 **The Bill**. Neil and Sam pull out all the stops in order to catch Shelley Fitzgerald - the woman seen with Amy on the CCTV. The net tightens as the team make their way to the Sussex coast. 9.00 **Bonkers**. Starring Liza Tarbuck and Mark Addy. Angry and hurt by Tony's infidelity, Helen invites Jeremy to dinner. Imelda sets up a date, and Marcus has a surprising encounter in the office. 10.00 **Benidorm**. Starring Johnny Vegas. Madge unwittingly gives Donald and Jacqueline the impression that she's a swinger. Troy gets drunk and flirts with Mateo. The Oracle tries to impress Telle. 10.30 **ITV News; Weather**. The latest national and international news, plus national weather. Including local news programmes. 11.00 **Soccer Night**. Andy Townsend, Peter Beagrie and special guests discuss the region's football, preview the weekend's fixtures and look at the progress of local clubs. 11.30 **Last Orders**. Pub regulars discuss the latest events on the political landscape. 12.00 **ITV Play: Make Your Play**. 4.10 **Make Me Perfect**. 5.00 **ITV Nightscreen**. 5.30 **ITV Early Morning News**.

4

6.10 **The Hoobs**. 6.35 **The Hoobs**. 7.00 **Freshly Squeezed**. 7.30 **Friends**. 8.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond**. 8.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond**. 8.55 **Frasier**. 9.25 **Will and Grace**. 9.55 **Will and Grace**. 10.20 **FILM: My Neighbour Totoro** (1988). Animation. 12.00 **News at Noon**. 12.30 **FILM: The Left Hand of God** (1955). Drama, starring Humphrey Bogart and Gene Tierney. 2.05 **Proud Parents**. 2.15 **Proud Parents**: Paul Rankin. 2.30 **A Place in the Sun**. 3.30 **Countdown**. 4.15 **Deal or No Deal**. 5.00 **Richard and Judy**. 6.00 **The Simpsons**. 6.30 **Hollyoaks**. 7.00 **Channel 4 News**. 7.55 **3 Minute Wonder: Deutsche Borse Photography Prize 2007**. Profiles of photographers shortlisted for the prestigious prize. Fiona Tan's installation **Vox Populi** uses publicly donated photographs to capture the lives of Norwegian families. 8.00 **10 Years Younger**. Reality makeover show. A self-confessed skin product virgin, 39-year-old biker chick Louise Chambers has had her age polled at 50 by 100 motorbike enthusiasts. 9.00 **Once Upon a Time in Iran**. Documentary from BAFTA award-winning director Kevin Sim that examines how a murder committed nearly 1400 years ago in Iran still resonates with today's Middle East. 10.30 **FILM: Wild Things** (1998). Thriller. A high-school counsellor is suspended after being accused of rape. Claim and counter-claim follow, revealing secrets that inspire a multitude of plot twists, starring Matt Dillon and Kevin Bacon. 12.00 **John Barnes' Football Night**. 1.00 **Quiz Call**. 4.00 **Dutch Football**. 5.10 **Football Argentina Highlights**.

five

6.00 **Tickle, Patch and Friends**. 6.25 **Old Bear Stories**. 6.35 **Bird Bath**. 6.45 **Hi-5**. 7.20 **Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends**. 7.30 **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**. 7.45 **Make Way for Noddy**. 8.00 **Fifi and the Flowertots**. 8.15 **Peppa Pig**. 8.25 **Thomas & Friends**. 8.40 **Titch**. 8.50 **Mio Mao**. 9.00 **The Wright Stuff**. 10.30 **Trisha Goddard**. 11.30 **five news**: 12.00 **Home and Away**. 12.30 **BrainTeaser**. 1.35 **FILM: The Petticoat Affair** (1977). Comedy, starring Richard Gilliland and Jim Varney. 3.35 **five news update**. 3.40 **FILM: First Target** (2000). Thriller, starring Daryl Hannah and Doug Savant. 5.30 **five news**. 6.00 **Home and Away**: Jack wallows in self-pity. Beth is concerned about Matilda and Ric's relationship. Jack makes a new friend. 6.30 **Out of Practice**. US sitcom about a family of doctors. Oliver wants to dump a girl, but feels bad because she is Ben's friend. Stewart and Lydia pretend to still be married. 7.00 **five news**. National and international news with John Suchet. 7.15 **UEFA Cup Football: Newcastle United v Zulte Waregem**. Live European football action as Newcastle welcome Zulte Waregem to St James's Park for the second leg of the first UEFA Cup knockout phase. 10.00 **FILM: Sniper** (1993). An army sergeant and an Olympic marksman become allies in the hunt for a Panamanian drugs baron when they are despatched to track and kill their target deep in his jungle hideout, starring Tom Berenger and Billy Zane.

Thursday February 22
club

Fibre: house & retro with Mark B & Tom Ferguson. **Flares**: **COPACABANA**: indie with dj Chris Martin. **Halo**: **ROCKSTAR**: indie with dj Chris Martin. **Hifi Club**: **THE HARLEM BUSH CLUB**: live jazz, funk, soul & hip-hop with Mike Walwyn. **Mission**: **HOMO**: dance tunes. **Queens Court**: **THE PINK POUND**: chart & dance music.

Sports Café: **SOUL NIGHT**: 60's R'n'B, northern soul, reggae & ska.

The Subculture: **GIGANTIC**: electro, rock.

Warehouse: **TEQUILLA**: student night.

Wire: **FUZZY LOGIC**: guitars with DJ Debstar.

gigs

City Varieties: **THE FRAMES**.

Irish Centre: **WHOLE LOTTA LED**.

Josephs Well: **FB BAND**.

Packhorse: **A.P.A.T.T**.

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THE RAKES: Manchester Ritz: 25th Mar.

ARCTIC MONKEYS: Manchester OTCC: 28th Jul.

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SPECIAL OFFER



Stevie Edmunds

It's funny how a smell can trigger memories and evoke old feelings. The smell of Granny's cooking makes you feel like you are five again, while the smell of freshly-cut grass takes you back to the carefree days of your youth, playing in the park on hot summer days for hours on end.

It's also true that as you get older, it's the little things in life which you really appreciate, a kind act from a stranger or a thoughtful gesture from a housemate. In a recent discussion with friends about what 'makes a man', I realised I'd found an item which fits into both of those categories.

In my opinion there is nothing better than the smell of a woman to take you back to happy or memorable times, though I'm not talking about her choice of perfume or her lack of bodily hygiene. What I'm talking about is familiar to most men as the sign of an eventful, exciting or just plain funny incident, the musty scent of girl on your hands.

I can remember sitting on public transport on the way home from a girlfriend's house years ago, absent mindedly staring out the window, only to catch the whiff of my slightly fishy finger as I scratched my chin. Memories and thoughts regarding the previous night's (and that morning's) behaviour instantly flooded back and I felt an overwhelming feeling of smugness come over me. I must have been grinning from ear to ear, much to the confusion of the young professionals surrounding me. They had no idea what I had been up to, but I had a tangible invisible reminder to amuse myself with on the way home (though not like that, you dirty beggars). I found myself wondering, what if someone else smelt it? Would they say anything? Perhaps a cheeky wink or a knowing nod at my possession of mingefinger? I know I'd give someone the thumbs up (no pun intended) for their fingerbang activities if I had the opportunity.

When I was really young I saw a scary German man on the train with shockingly bad homemade

I know I'd give someone the thumbs up (no pun intended) for their fingerbang activities if I had the opportunity

tattoos all over him. The one that sticks in my mind to this very day, located on his forearm, read "I LOVE THE SMELL WOMAN" (sic.). I thought this strange at the time, but as I have become older, I have found myself agreeing with this frightening character. Maybe this is why Al Pacino is so sprightly in *Scent of a Woman* (HooHah!), as although he is blind he can still get his sniff on?

The important lesson here is two things, a) smell is highly underrated and b) if you get a case of mingefinger, enjoy it.

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Stevie Edmunds is not this sicko's real name. His identity must be protected to save him from angry mobs.

pg30/observations/ls2/160207

OBSERVATIONS



Hind Hassan

You're sat there admiring the features of a fine young man, not too dissimilar from Mr Darcy, looking into his eyes, lost in a world of masculinity, his personal smell igniting a passion within you. Then he lets something out that will never let you look at him the same way again. An action so polluting that he regresses from the sculpture of honour you believe him to be and turns to nothing more than a juvenile. He farts.

What is it with the majority of the male population that believes it to be completely normal to excrete such unpleasant gases from one's arse? This animalistic behaviour has baffled a legion of women – and the odd normal male, for many a century and has provoked some of the most infamous studies known to man, or if it hasn't, it should.

Call me old fashioned, but what has happened to etiquette? A world in which women aspire to be Jade Goody and the bottom burp appears to be a growing pastime to many females now too, is one which is truly turned upside down. Now, I understand that occasionally a gas bomb cannot be helped, but situations when you are sat in the vicinity of an individual when he or she lets a methane hurricane rip – and then sighs afterwards are another story! What the hell? I don't think it would be outlandish to call for some sort of legislation to be enforced so as to prevent such psychologically disturbing events from occurring. I mean, if you can get fined for dropping litter and an ASBO for singing in your bath tub, surely you can be tried for public disorder for such a heinous act as farting.

My dad once told me of a story, when, during the middle of a meeting with his professor and dean of his genetics department at university, he (the professor not my dad) let out a little burp noise, looked completely unabashed, chuckled a little to himself, then continued to discuss the genetical benefits of cross maze breeding. I'm sorry, but there's absolutely no excuse: in all my years I have never found myself in a situation where I have had no choice but to fluctuate in front of my own fish let alone humans lucky enough to possess a heartbeat.

Once again I am not so irrational that I cannot sympathise with one 'pumping' whilst walking with friends in the autumn breeze in the hope that a gust of seasonal wind will disguise or aid in the gas' migration, but please, I do not need to put up with stink bombs when sat in a room. If you happen to be one of these culprits, you deserve a punishment no less than death. Get help, change your diet, eat less beans or cabbages. I don't know, just stop contributing to global warming; it's not big and it's not clever.

World peace won't be attainable until this monumental problem is addressed. We need to start looking from the bottom up. We need to race ahead and not get dogged down behind by such cheeky actions. A revolution is needed. Let the fight for clean air commence. Amen.



Mariam Al Jaajaa

I hail from a country where, during the peak of summer, the temperature rises to approximately 40 degrees Celsius. A country where, as soon as it hits March, the barbeques are out and the shades are dusted off. The summer gets so hot people can often be found grilling their kebabs on car roofs. Yet, I can fortunately say, I have never had the urge to walk round my local park in nothing more than a piece of dental floss covering my buttocks and a handkerchief around my chest.

I simply do not understand this obsession, one that appears to be ubiquitous in Leeds, with stripping naked as soon as the ice begins to thaw. Just the other day, I was out on the town when lo and behold, in the great winter chill, I was greeted by a dimple-arsed female in nothing less than a pair of white knickers. No tights, no leggings, just a ridiculous excuse for hotpants. And to top it off, her upper modesty was covered with a piece of material hanging on for dear life. Furthermore, am I the only one to feel slightly nauseous at the sight of adolescent males walking around Hyde Park with just a pair of Umbro shorts and a cap? Get a shirt on, I don't want to see your nipples.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not moaning about mini skirts or a nice little top. But when the temperature outside is still cold enough to make you blow shapes in the form of Noah's ark when breathing, then vanity should be put aside and a little modesty bestowed.

The thing that appears to be lacking is common sense. I have never understood why girls I see meandering around university wear big scarfs around their necks, large gloves, a polo neck jumper, a cute little hat, Uggs and then no bloody trousers! Why the hell would you dress up half naked and half like an Eskimo unless you wanted to declare to the world what an indecisive and unhinged character you are?

Then there's the complete opposite – when people over-exaggerate their wardrobe because of the cold climate, a common occurrence amongst men. These people who get a little oversensitive about the British weather are the ones you never see anywhere without a large puffy jacket, one that should have been left in the eighties with Jazzy Jeff and MC Hammer, and 25 layers of jumpers, sniffling at any opportunity and always moaning about the weather. You know the type: it's not a very attractive trait. What happened to a bit of common sense and middle ground? What is it with human nature that insists everyone takes one extreme or the other?

The main problem in my eyes, that is stifling any progression in this matter, is the British democracy system. All these rights and freedom to say and dress how you like as long as it doesn't infringe on the rights of others is nothing more than a load of unnecessary malarkey. I say make it law. People should only dress in accordance to a code, set out by select group of people, detailing which uniform is suitable for a particular time of year. You know it makes sense.

Hind is a final year Medicinal Chemistry student

Mariam Al Jaajaa is an International Development finalist

CINEMA

VUE: The Light
Charlotte's Web (U) (1h 36)
 Fri/Sat/Sun 10:50, 13:10, 15:40,
 18:10

Mon/Tue 13:10, 15:40, 18:10

Music and Lyrics (PG) (1h 44)
 Fri/Sat/Sun 12:10, 14:45, 17:15,
 20:00 Fri/Sat Late 22:30

Mon/Tue 14:45, 17:15, 20:00

Hannibal Rising (18) (2h) Fri/
 Sat/Sun 10:15, 12:50, 15:50, 18:40,
 21:20 Fri/Sat Late 00:00

Mon/Tue 12:50, 15:50, 18:40,
 21:20

Epic Movie (12A) (1h 25) Fri/
 Sat/Sun 10:30, 12:45, 14:55, 17:10,
 19:30, 21:40, Fri/Sat Late 23:55

Mon/Tue 12:45, 14:55, 17:10,
 19:30, 21:40

Goal! 2 (12A) (1h 25) Fri/
 Sat/Sun 10:10, 17:05, 19:40 Fri/
 Sat Late 22:40

Mon/Tue 17:05, 19:40

Arthur and the Invisibles (U)
 (1h 33) Fri/Sat/Sun 09:55, 12:00,
 14:35

Mon/Tue 14:35

Hot Fuzz (15) (2h) Fri/Sat/Sun
 09:50, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30,
 17:30, 18:30, 20:30, 21:30 Fri/Sat
 Late 23:30

Mon/Tue 12:30, 14:30, 15:30,
 17:30, 18:30, 20:30, 21:30

Blood Diamond (15) (2h 33)
 Fri/Sat/Sun 11:20, 14:40, 17:45,
 20:50

Mon/Tue 14:40, 17:45, 20:50

Notes on a Scandal (15) (1h 31)
 Fri/Sat/Sun 10:40, 13:00, 15:25,
 17:50, 20:20 Fri/Sat Late 22:50

Mon/Tue 13:00, 15:25, 17:50,
 20:20

Happy Feet (U) (1h 49) Fri/Sat/
 Sun 09:40

Dreamgirls (12) (2h 10) 1st the-
 ater Fri/Sat 12:15, 15:10, 18:00,
 21:00, 23:45

Sun 12:15, 18:00, 21:00 Mon
 15:10, 18:00, 21:00 Tue 15:10
 2nd theatre Subtitled: Sun 15:10
 Tue 21:00

The Pursuit of Happyness (12)
 (1h 57) Fri/Sat 00:00

Sun/Mon/Tue 20:40

Because I Said So (12A) (1h 41)
 Fri/Sat/Sun 10:00, 12:20, 14:50,
 17:20, 19:50 Fri/Sat Late 22:20

Mon/Tue 14:50, 17:20, 19:50

Babel (15) (2h 22) Tue 14:45,
 17:50, 20:55

The Last King of Scotland (15)
 (2h 1min) Fri/Sat/Sun 09:45,
 12:25, 15:20, 18:20, 21:10 Fri/Sat
 Late 23:50

Mon/Tue 15:20, 18:20, 21:10

Venus (15) (1h 34) Wed/Thu
 21:15

Little Miss Sunshine (15) (1h

42) Tue 11:30

VUE: Kirkstall Road

Arthur and The Invisibles (U)
 (1h 32)

Fri/Sat 11:00, 13:20, 15:50, 18:10

Daily 13:20, 15:50, 18:10

Blood Diamond (15) (2h 23)

Fri/Sat 16:20, 19:30, 22:50

Sun 16:20, 19:30

Daily 13:10, 16:20, 18:30

Charlotte's Web (U) (1h 37)

Fri/Sat/Sun 11:30, 14:00, 16:30,
 19:00

Daily 14:00, 16:30, 19:00

Dreamgirls (12A) (2h 10)

Fri/Sat 11:50, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30,
 23:30

Sun 11:50, 14:50, 17:40, 20:30

Daily 14:50, 17:40, 20:30

Epic Movie (12A) (1h 25)

Fri/Sat 10:00, 12:10, 14:30, 16:40,
 18:50, 21:15, 23:40

Sun 10:00, 12:10, 14:30, 16:40,
 18:50, 21:15

Daily 14:30, 16:40, 18:50, 21:15

Hannibal Rising (15) (2h 1 min)

Fri/Sat 12:30, 15:10, 17:50, 20:45,
 23:50

Sun 12:30, 15:10, 17:50, 20:45

Daily 15:10, 17:50, 20:45

Hot Fuzz (15) (2h)

Fri/Sat 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00,
 00:00

Sun 12:00, 15:00, 18:00, 21:00

Daily 15:00, 18:00, 21:00

Music and Lyrics (PG) (1h 54)

Fri/Sat 09:50, 12:20, 14:40, 17:20,
 20:00, 22:40

Sun 09:50, 12:20, 14:40, 17:20,
 20:00

Daily 14:40, 17:20, 20:00

Notes on a Scandal (15) (1h 31)

Fri/Sat 11:40, 17:10, 19:45, 22:30

Sun 11:40, 17:10, 19:45

Daily 17:10, 19:45

The Pursuit of Happyness (12A)
 (1h 57)

Fri/Sat 14:20, 21:30

Sun 21:30

Daily 14:20, 21:30

The Queen (12A) (1h 39)

Fri/Sat/Sun 10:10

Daily 12:50

Hyde Park Picture House

FRI: No showings SAT: Thief Lord (PG) 11:00 **A Prairie Home**

Companion (PG) 16:15

Hot Fuzz (15) 18:30, 20:45, 23:00

SUN: A Prairie Home Companion (PG) 16:15

Hot Fuzz (15) 18:30, 20:45 **MON: Hot Fuzz** (15) 18:30, 20:45 **TUE: II Gattopardo** (PG) 17:50

Hot Fuzz (15) 21:15 **WED: A Prairie Home Companion** (PG) 16:00 **Hot Fuzz** (15) 18:30, 20:45

THU: Umrao Jaan (12A) 11:30 **Hot Fuzz** (15) 18:30, 20:45

42) Tue 11:30

DIARY}

Try Something New

17th

Comedy Night Meet inside Union Foyer, 6pm, £5. LUU Comedy Society will be taking a trip to the well-renowned HiFi Comedy night. You'll enjoy a fantastic atmosphere and the tickets are half-price! Tickets must be bought from the ARC reception in advance.

18th

Salsa & Flamenco Night Mine, 8pm-12:30, £5. Come along for a night of Salsa & Flamenco fun! 2 hours of dance tuition in a variety of Spanish and Latin American styles including Salsa, Merengue and many others. Buffet of Spanish and Latin American foods included! The night will finish off with a DJ set of many popular Latino style tunes.

19th

Roman Cooking Meeting Room 3, 5pm-7pm, £3.50. Come along to a Roman cooking session to have a go at recreating a Roman feast and indulge in the products. All kinds of food and drink available and you can even dress up in togas if you like!

STAR: Journey to Safety Meet ARC Reception, 7.30pm-9.30pm, £1

Try something really different - Journey to Safety is a drama exercise simulating what it's like to be a refugee. All you need to bring is an open mind if you want to take part in this interesting and thought-provoking session.

20th

Tai Chi ARC Conference Hall, 5pm-6pm, £5. Explore the mental and physical benefits of this ancient Chinese practice. It can help teach

awareness of your own body and relieve the effects of stress.

21st

Modern Greek Language Taster Meeting Room 8, 6pm-6.30pm, £1. Learn the basics of this fascinating language in this beginner's taster.

Indian Head Massage Meeting Room 2, £3

This massage is carried out wearing clothing in a seated position. The shoulders, neck, scalp and face are all worked to release tension in the body. This treatment helps with headache reduction, stiffness and eyestrain and is the perfect massage to learn for both beginners and experts.

Chinese New Year Singing

Contest Mine, 8pm-11pm, Singers Free/Members £2/Non-members £4

Come for an evening of Pop Idol Style fun - Chinese Society style! There'll be 2 rounds of competition and a prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

22nd

Sci-fi & Fantasy ARC Conf. Hall, 6pm-9pm, Free

Lots to choose from here - giving you a taste of the different activities that the society offers. Try war gaming with miniatures, test your luck with card gaming, or if you're feeling active, then try Live Action Roleplay: dress up in chain mail and use latex swords and axes.

23rd

Beginners Gym Session Meet ARC Reception, 9.45am-11am, £1

Just to show you that the gym isn't so bad... You'll be shown how to use the equipment and given tips

on how to exercise properly.

Highlights

20th-24th

Dance Expose presents... **Aurora Borealis** V... Make Room, Riley Smith Hall, 7.30pm NUS £4.50 in advance/£5 on door, without NUS £7. Dance Expose's annual extravaganza. Upbeat, lively and entertaining - the creation of some of Leeds Uni's most talented dancers. Tickets available: 16th Feb: Info Point and then from 19th-24th: Box Office.

21st

LS:TV Broadcast Terrace Bar, 2pm

Weekly broadcast from one of LUU's other media outlets. Sit down, have a drink and see what entertainment they have to offer.

23rd

Cabaret Heaven: SHAKEN AND STIRRED SPECIAL! Doors 8pm, show 9pm, £8.50 (£6)

Brudenell Social Club, "Cocktails for Two" awesome and stylish magic-circus-dance comedy show. Jive Bomb jump blues and crazy swing from the 9-piece Cabaret Cocktail Band. Entertainment will include Trevor Organ's finest spinning dinner service and a table-hopping magician. Also Casino Blackjack and roulette with free chips provided - plus a few extra for best dressed!

Do you have a one off event you want to include in the LS2 diary?

email details to:
 listings@lsweb.org.uk by Tuesday.

Dear Diary,
 An incident compelled me to write to the local MP...

Dear Hillary Benn,

Under your premiership in Leeds, an error of Prescotian proportions has remained unchanged. I am not alluding to the fluorescent blight upon the eye that is Morrisons, nor to the deplorable heel of your constituency, Woodhouse, rather I am referring to the colossal uselessness of the Leeds recycling programme. We have no household 'paper bin'. I have had no choice but to hoard old papers in a suitcase, with the intention of depositing its content, when full, into an ethical bank. The occasion of the completed case having arrived, I voyaged, tailed by my store, into the city centre. But there was no recycling house (at least, I couldn't find it if there was one), and with regards to the public bins, there was only the occasional waste segregation of aluminium cans. Is this country only suited to recycling American TV? In abject disillusion, I resorted to the University of Leeds. In the end, I found a fair resting place for my

paper rubbish.

Disheartened I may have been, but now, now Sir, I am determined. I have here enclosed a petition of a hundred names calling for the introduction of an extensive recycling programme throughout your domain. (Admittedly, some of the signatures appear improbable, but I assure you the names of Shilpa Shetty, Sir Bob Geldof, and Harold Bishop are authentic). Imagine the soaring of your popularity if you see the people's ambitions manifested in glorious forms of giant sculptures made from recyclable goods, of beautiful household recycling bins, of shiny playgrounds consisting of reused plastics, of sporadic recycling points and signs adorned throughout the city declaring 'This way to the Recycling Point!'. Public morale will be smiling, and the economy will bloom from the glare of positive attitude. Leeds can be the next London. Even the US administration will take note of your success and imitate your courageous actions.

I understand you are in contention to be the next Deputy Prime Minister. Sir, your chances will greatly increase when you can add, 'slowing the saturation of

landfill sites', 'halting global warming' and 'appeasing Lizo from Newsround' to your credentials. The Deputy Premiership will be entirely yours once Prescott is suitably disposed of (unearth a photo of him shaking the hand of Gary Glitter to speed the process of his exit), providing of course that Labour win the next election. You can ensure such an outcome by proving David Cameron's lycra cycling shorts were actually manufactured in China by the sweat of child labour. And if, once in office, you ever fancied a further promotion... (assuming, by this time, Gordon Brown is Prime Minister), just cement the break-up of the existing United Kingdom by adapting the national curriculum to preach that William Wallace, Robert Bruce and Billy Connolly were, in fact, English rebels. Under revised immigration and terrorist laws, Mr Brown would then have to be deported.

Your spiralling and inevitable rise to power begins with a few recycling bins...

Yours truly

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Leeds universities' Summerball

Lotherton Hall

01.06.07

www.leedssummerball.com

subjectivity. When asked what the work meant to her, one of the women said that it had been a learning project with a difference. Nurtured by a former Leeds student whose dissertation focused on the importance of establishing a personal identity as opposed to one formed by others, namely the media, she was made to feel welcome and to gain invaluable confidence.

"I was given the insight to see how beautiful art really is: how a simple object, a dandelion or a butterfly, is art and can be interpreted in so many different ways."

She was able to gain the self-belief to realise that she, and indeed anybody is capable of making art.

Does she feel that the project has allowed her to express herself?

"I do feel that I've been able to express myself in so many ways that I thought I was incapable of, and to do it through art is truly amazing and opens lots of doors and opportunities for me. People never listened before as you weren't seen as a person, but a working girl, a junky, or a nobody."

And what would she like people to take from this work? "I would hope that people take a real understanding of the lifestyle I have led and to not judge us all: to believe in us, accept us as equals and not down in the gutter. I want people to see the real beauty in our artwork, to know we produced it, and to know that each person will take something different home, as each of the women involved with the project did."

Does she feel that this work embodies her? "I feel that my piece represents not only myself, but all women in the sex industry. It represents an attempt to become a voice that is heard and not forgotten and pushed further out there."

A Channel 4 survey into prostitution in Britain has shown that three quarters of women on the game said that they had been attacked by clients in the last year, with 60 per cent being violently beaten and/or raped. Worryingly, 69 per cent refused to report the assaults to police for fear of unsympathetic dismissal.

"Whilst involved in the sex industry, my relationship with the police wasn't very good," commented one former sex worker when asked if she would report such an incident. "If you reported a rape or being beaten-up, they'd just say 'You're a prostitute; you deserve it.' They wouldn't do anything about it. Some of the police sometimes took advantage. But you have to remember that some girls have been brought up in care and when they opened up or asked for help (with issues such as abuse, rape, being groomed, or pimped) they were often not believed or told that there was not enough evidence to do anything about it. The whole Trust thing is gone and you're left feeling that you have nowhere to turn. Every door you go to is slammed in your face and you are judged or taken advantage of. I would report an incident now that I am no longer a part of the industry because I have gained the confidence to do the right thing, whether I am believed or not, to stop it happening to someone else."

As for the big government clean-up, a renew of the prostitution laws was commissioned by the Home Office in 2004, producing the new Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy, based on the criminalisation of sex workers and those buying sex. According to the Government "the strategy will focus on disrupting sex markets by preventing individuals, and particularly children and young people, from being drawn into prostitution; by providing appropriate protection and routes out for those already

involved; by protecting communities from the nuisance associated with prostitution; and by ensuring that those who control, coerce or abuse those in prostitution are brought to justice." But figures show that the threat posed by the criminalisation of prostitution has led to slightly more than one per cent (that's two out of one hundred and ten questioned) retiring from the business as a result of this police crack-down. The rest on the other hand are continually being pushed further into the margins - physically, socially, and legally. As their voices become increasingly distant and stifled by Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, is it any wonder that those at Genesis welcomed the opportunity to make themselves heard?

Prostitution has long bobbed up and down with the ebb and tide of public opinion. Often considered one of the world's oldest and perhaps most natural professions (the exchange of sexual favours in return for certain privileges has been observed in apes and some species of bird), it has gone from being tolerated in sixteenth century Roman Catholic society for supposedly preventing the greater sins of rape and masturbation, to being reviled, predominately by nineties feminists, for promoting a negative image of the female body as an object in existence solely for male sexual gratification. Modern opinion is largely divided between those advocating a complete abolition, a nigh-on

Prostitution in numbers

75%

Approximate proportion of women in prostitution who began working when they were under 18-years-old

5,000

Of the estimated 80,000 prostitutes nationwide, 5,000 of them will be children with a female to male ratio of four to one

95%

Proportion of sex workers who have drug or alcohol addiction

"Whilst involved in the sex industry, my relationship with the police wasn't very good," commented one former sex worker when asked if she would report such an incident. "If you reported a rape or being beaten-up, they'd just say 'You're a prostitute; you deserve it.'"

impossible aim, and those calling for its decriminalisation or legalisation on the basis that it is a "victimless crime" - whether prostitution can indeed be dismissed as victimless is an argument less easily judged. What it all boils down to is this: prostitution is in essence based as much on consumer trade as your local supermarket: in that the consumer chooses what he wants and pays for it. In this light, should the sale of sex be regarded any differently to the sale of chocolate - another of the nation's favourite things - so long as it is entirely the 'vendor's' choice to do so? Again, things are complicated due to the impossibility of judging what is freely chosen and what is not; in a trade that often moulds children from an early age, choice of any sort simply doesn't come into the argument.

For now, prostitution in Britain remains shrouded in a veil of stigma but all this could be set to change in coming years with the proposed introduction of legal brothels, like those in Amsterdam, where working women will have access to clean, safe (or safer) facilities, in another government attempt to curb the number of 'street-crawlers.' Whether these changes will be enough to bring about a softening of public opinion and give the women more legal rights and protection remains to be seen. In the meantime, Genesis has taken a small yet significant step towards raising awareness regarding the profession and the lives led by its anonymous workers.

75%

Proportion of child prostitutes who have interrupted or prematurely terminated educational careers

993

Number of arrests for kerb crawling in 2002, compared with 2,678 for soliciting



MUSES: Prostitutes have been used by artists as models for their paintings, but in Genesis, sex workers are given the opportunity to express themselves through art.

How to get ahead in business

One of the most effective ways to progress up the career ladder is to manage yourself and your careers though you are a Chief Executive Officer – the head of 'Me plc' - says Personnel Today's Scott Beagrie.

Like any successful CEO of a corporation, you must have the vision to see where 'Me plc' is headed and know how you will get

there.

Identify what is important to you in life and use this to set your sights on where you want to be in three, five, 10,

and even 15 years' time. Remember, your blueprint for success needn't necessarily involve financial gain or advancement.



AHH SUGAR, SUGAR! Amstrad honcho Alan Sugar in the days when he and Kevin Keegan were considered fashionistas.

"Not everyone sees success in terms of readily measurable indicators, like a bigger pay packet or a higher level in the company hierarchy," says David Cumberbatch, senior consultant at business psychologist Xancam, which helps organisations such as Royal Mail and Fujitsu Services identify and accelerate the performance of people with 'high potential'. As part of defining your vision or purpose, think about both tangible and non-tangible success indicators," he says. "Some of the most important indicators may be less obviously measurable, such as enjoyment of work, or intellectual challenge."

APPOINT A 'BOARD'

As CEO of Me plc, you will need a personal board of advisers to keep you focused and motivated and help you deliver on your game plan. So think of people in your network whose skills and experience will be of most value to you. Obvious contenders include fellow professionals, your line manager and senior-level people who could become mentors.

"Take every opportunity to extend your network outside your own organisation - this can include clients, suppliers and people you have made contact with in the past," advises Cumberbatch.

FORMULATE A STRATEGY

Once you have set your vision, a plan of action can be worked out. Contemplate how you can best accomplish your career development objectives in incremental steps. Decide how you can best use the talents of your board and make sure they know what kind of direction and support you expect from them. Typically, it might include get-

ting advice on evaluating the types of roles you could take on to fill skills gaps, the best organisations to work for, as well as the optimum time for moving between jobs.

Be prepared to review your strategy regularly to allow for market changes or the company's business fortunes. If it helps, write down the steps required to achieve your goals, and check your progress.

Focus on developing a set of guiding principles

"Some of the best strategies are the most flexible, so focus on developing a set of guiding principles," explains Cumberbatch. "You can use these principles to screen everything to establish what is and isn't supporting your vision."

KEEP COMMUNICATION CHANNELS OPEN

Maintain regular contact with the board and present progress reports. This will keep you focused, and ensure that everything relates back to your Me plc game plan.

Article by Scott Beagrie who writes for Personnel Today

The business 'do's and 'don'ts'

Do:

- Identify your strengths and what you most enjoy doing.
- Continuously find situations that will stretch you.
- Be on the watch for opportunities that support your vision.
- Remember that mistakes are important for learning.
- Adapt your original game plan if a better opportunity emerges.

Don't:

- Assume that the price of success is having to put up with jobs that you don't enjoy.
- Allow life to drift past without giving any thought to your dream career.
- Assume it is somebody else's responsibility to develop you.
- Think you will get all the learning you need from books or courses.
- Settle for second best - life is far too short to be lived as a compromise.

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Communism out, religion in

As an ordinary middle-school student in early '70s China, Mr. Liu adopted the socialist ideals of the Chinese Communist Party as the guiding principles of his life. He joined both the Communist Party Youth League and the Red Guards, the infamous foot soldiers of Mao's Cultural Revolution, who smashed temples and historical artifacts and terrorised people deemed enemies of Maoist thought. Today, Liu sits in a church discussion group where believers are sharing their newly adopted faith. He tells of how he began attending church services in 1983, but delayed baptism for a long time. He was afraid that in the aftermath of the collapse of his beloved Communist ideals, his reasons for seeking out Christianity were not akin to true faith. After years of wavering, he finally rededicated his life: "Yesterday I believed in Communism, today I believe in Christ."

Liu's story is common all over China. At the beginning of the Communist Party's rule in 1949, there were less than four million Christians nationwide. Estimates put the current figure closer to 80 million. This astonishing growth is not just confined to Christianity: while figures are harder to obtain for Buddhism and Daoism, temples in today's China are attracting crowds of worshippers the like of which have not been seen since before the Cultural Revolution. From the high plateau of Tibet to the booming factories of the Pearl River Delta, the Chinese are turning to God to fulfill their spiritual needs. What is it about contemporary China that has nurtured this religious fervor, in spite of decades of active persecution and repression of religion by those in power?

From 1949 onwards, the Communist Party provided the Chinese people with ready-made answers to the big questions of life: it told them what to think, how to act, and what happens when you die. Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms of 1978 eroded this ideology, and led to an increasingly materialistic society which, along with rising unemployment levels and widening income gaps, left many feeling lost and seeking a new doctrine.

Before Mao Zedong's triumph over the Nationalists in 1949, China remained open to religious, including Christian, ideas. In the year following the Communist victory, however, "some ten thousand Protestant and Catholic foreign missionaries were forced to leave China." In

the 1950s, the government created or took over supervising bodies for each of the five major religions in China, enabling the Party to control believers through the clergy. By 1966, religion in China was facing its greatest catastrophe yet – the Cultural Revolution.

Father Zhang lived through all this turmoil. He was born into a Catholic family in 1959, and recalls how, during the Cultural Revolution, his family wouldn't dare hold a church service or even meet up with other Catholics. Instead they would pray in the secrecy of their home, the fear of discovery always weighing heavy on their minds. He remembers the exact day when the churches were finally allowed to throw open their doors – the 15th of August 1980, the feast day of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. Gradually the Church began to rebuild itself: bibles came back into print, priests were let out of prison. Zhang notes that the Church experienced a growth explosion in the early '90s. The many who came to the church seeking spiritual comfort were welcomed by "a new generation of young priests with new ideas who were graduating from the seminaries."

A Chinese tour guide herds her yellow-capped flock into a corner of the courtyard, while worshippers queue up

From 1949 onwards, the Communist Party provided the Chinese people with ready-made answers to the big questions of life: it told them what to think, how to act, and what happens when you die

to kowtow before fierce-looking idols. A crimson-robed monk sits cross-legged on a stone platform, surveying the scene. His name is Ah Wang Tu Dan, and he comes from the famous Kumbum monastery on the border of Tibet and Qinghai. He notes that "A few years ago, no Chinese worshipped at Kumbum. Now they arrive by the busload, and they're not tourists. They come to worship." Han Chinese, like Westerners, are becoming attracted by the mystic ritualism of Tibetan Buddhism.

Whilst there can be no doubt that religion in China is undergoing a major revival, all religions still operate under strict government surveillance and restriction. The Party feels threatened: if the number of Christians in China is 80 million or more as estimates suggest, then Christians already outnumber Party members by ten million, and with an annual growth rate of seven percent, Christianity's sphere of influence is increasing all the time. People are frequently arrested for religious activities that would be protected in free countries. In July 2002, Zhang Rongliang, the head of one of China's largest house church networks, was jailed for "fraudulently attaining a passport and crossing a border illegally," and 125 places of worship were shut down in Jiangsu province in November the following year, affecting 3000 Christians. This repression is justified thus in a government white paper on Freedom of Religious Belief in China:

"Now the Chinese people are building China into a modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics. The Chinese government advocates that religion should adapt to this reality... Such adaptation... requires religions to conduct their activities within the sphere prescribed by law and adapt to social and cultural progress." For Catholics, government restriction is most evident in the struggle between the Vatican and the Catholic Patriotic Association, who, having declared that the Pope has no jurisdiction over Catholicism in China, select new bishops for ordination, usually based on who is most likely to toe the party line. The underground Catholic Church ordained Vatican-approved bishops in defiance of the CPA, leading to the development of two separate Catholic hierarchies in China.

Restrictions on Buddhist practice are most evident in Tibetan Buddhism, a religion that serves as the core of Tibetan

China's disillusioned masses are looking for a new system of belief by which to govern their lives. LS Correspondent Christine Cooper, reports.

social life and that often fuels yearnings for Tibetan independence. The state takes action against religious practices it finds threatening. In 2000, for instance, it closed a popular training institute for Buddhist practitioners in Sichuan province. More than 10,000 students, most of them Han Chinese, had gathered at the Serda Institute in Ganzi county to study with a famous teacher. The institute has since reopened, but the number of students is limited to a few hundred.

Despite government efforts to restrict religious expansion, Tianjin Cathedral over Easter weekend is bursting at the seams. Crowds of people spill out from the open doors, and a sea of tightly-packed heads reaches up the aisles all the way to the altar. In the church yard, speakers relay the service to several hundred more faithful, who kneel on the rough tarmac ground while assistant priests unveil a crucifix and sprinkle holy water in the shadow of a shrine to Mary.

In an eleventh-storey flat in the art district in Dashanzi, Beijing, members of a Protestant underground church-group meet weekly for prayer and discussion. The minister begins to pray, a torrent of words flowing from his screwed-up face to calls of "Yes!" and "Amen!" from his appreciative congregation. After a dramatic crescendo, he shouts "Father we are sinners! Save us! Save us!" and he is spent. Other members of the group take up the baton, praying urgently, frantically. One woman has prepared five pages worth of scrawled, heavily-corrected prayer to read out. A mixture of shouts of approval and sobs fills the gaps when she pauses for breath. Ms Wen dabs at her eyes with a tissue. Later, Wen tells me how, stuck in a bad career and a bad marriage, she came to the church: "My heart was empty," she says. "I was looking for something, but I didn't know what." She describes her baptism with five others in a river at a beautiful spot outside Beijing. "I knew Jesus would be with me forever."

The decline of Communism in China has contributed to interest in religion in more ways than simply the loss of a structured ideology for its followers. The collapse of socialized health care means sick Chinese must pay cash before gaining access to a doctor. Many turn to prayer to solve their problems. Li Wen, 71, converted to Christianity two years ago. She tells how a Buddhist neighbour of hers had back problems for years, but

was unable to find a cure. One day, Wu invited her neighbour to a house church service near their home in rural Tianjin. They prayed for her, and her back got better. Li expressed her neighbour's confused feelings: "She said, 'I've always been a Buddhist. My family have always been Buddhists. But after this, how can I not become Christian?'" A woman told the congregation at Kuanjie Protestant Church, Beijing: "My brother's daughter had a virus which doctors had never seen before. She was on a ventilator and everyone had lost hope. But I prayed for her, and she recovered. Now her family follow Christ too."

The collapsing health system, search for spirituality, and over-restriction in official churches all came together in the most controversial religious movement China has seen since the founding of the People's Republic – Falun Gong. A set of breathing exercises drawing on the principles of Buddhism, Daoism and Qigong, it is estimated that at its peak Falun Gong had 60 million followers, including senior government and military officials. At first, Falun Gong was ignored as harmless, much like the underground churches. But, when 10,000 practitioners turned up on the doorstep of the Party leadership one morning in April 1999, in peaceful protest of an article slandering their charismatic leader Li Hongzhi, it resulted in a crackdown of cruel severity. Practitioners were rounded up and sent to education-through-labour camps, materials relating to Falun Gong publicly burnt, and protestors tortured – even killed – in police custody.

Under Hu Jintao's leadership, ideology seems even less important, and religious life is becoming less restricted. The possibility of another Falun Gong-type uprising and violent suppression, while always possible, seems unlikely. Instead, religion may well play a stabilizing role in Chinese society. Mr. Hu, one of the many Han Chinese who now practice Tibetan Buddhism, makes use of his time in Beijing on a business trip to visit Yonghegong temple. He stands up from the worn cushion and bows once more to the gilded Buddha before him. He recites a mantra in Tibetan, then tells me that if one prays to Buddha, "Family, career, love and money – all these aspects of life will improve." He smiles and hands me three joss sticks before vanishing into the next hall.



Want to write for *Leeds Student*?

**Fridays, 5pm.
LS Office
First floor, LUU.**



Too fast too furious

Christina Okello takes a look at the Chinese economy, the speed at which it is developing and its potentially dangerous nature.

Christina Okello

Anyone who has visited the mainland of China in recent years cannot help but have noticed the cloaks of swirling smog engulfing its cities. Coal-fired power stations stand in for more traditional sights, while the deafening sounds of generators meet you at every step. The pervasiveness of this expansion is almost perverse: pervasive in that it seems to have bitten the Chinese like a bad bug, perverse that they should focus their insatiable demand on a helpless country like Africa. Yet, as a vital holder of the world's natural resources, Africa has always been an area of significant economic and strategic interest. Only now, it is a potent reflection of the cost of China's growth. For the past decade, China's economy has been expanding at a dizzying speed, and boasts an annual growth rate well into the double-digits.

This relentless capacity for expansion requires enormous resources, especially energy. In an attempt to satisfy its sharply rising domestic energy demand, Beijing has fixed its attention on Africa, and currently imports 25% of its total oil from the continent. Keen to maintain strong ties with its African energy suppliers, Beijing has offered sweeteners of soft-loans and huge investments. However, 'magnanimous' though this lending seems, many critics argue that it is merely a smoke screen for indebting non-developing countries even more. Never mind the fact that it runs counter to the Third World Debt relief programme the West is trying to enforce.

Yet, what is really reprehensible is the fact that Beijing is able to plunder Africa's raw materials at knockdown prices; one would hardly have thought that the world's third largest economy would need to make any more profit, and certainly not off the backs of the poor. So, in great colonialist style, the Chinese batter Africa's economies with a flood of subsidised goods and surplus labour, usurping many locals out of business. "Our textile factories can't compete with cheap Chinese imports," comments one Zambian worker. Moreover, Chinese owners import labourers to do jobs that Zambians say could go to them. "That's not the kind of investment we need," asserts Zambia's former trade and industry minister. Indeed, the form of 'development' offered by Beijing to its "good partner and brother", states the Chinese President Hu Jintao, results in Africans being subjected to harsher and less safe working conditions for lower pay, compared with more favourable treatment in other Western companies. More favourable though the West may be, one can hardly forget the many years of colonisation it enforced upon the continent; a hegemony that the East is now trying

to reinforce. What begins to emerge is a kind of ideological battlefield, with the East and West vying for Africa from both sides, almost akin to that other great clamour, the Cold War. For, undeniably, China's fascination with Africa is not new, and dates back to the 1960s and 1970s, where it centred on building ideological solidarity with other underdeveloped nations to advance communism and repel Western "imperialism". Given the situation in Africa today, it would be fair to say that China's model of a one-party totalitarian state appears to have rubbed off on many African dictators. And China rewards its African friends with diplomatic attention and financial and military assistance, predicated on a strict policy of "non-interference". Yet China is legitimising and encouraging Africa's most repressive regimes: Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe and Omar al-Bashir in Sudan. It doesn't matter that almost a quarter of a million people have been killed in Sudan, by weapons that it continues to sell to Khartoum. "Business is business". And, for the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong, the internal

situation in Sudan must remain an internal affair. Though, if that were really the case, China would not be manufacturing arms that oppress minority populations and quash political opposition; it would walk away and simply let these countries get on with it. That really would constitute "non-interference". Hence, why these African dictators have no compunction about abusing Human Rights laws: no matter what they do, they know they can count on China to bolster their international legitimacy in the United Nations.

For example, in September 2004, the U.N. Security Council passed a Resolution that condemned the mass killing of civilians in the Darfur region, but stopped short of imposing oil sanctions against Khartoum. Why did proceedings grind to a halt? China abstained from the vote and then threatened to veto any further action. Talks remain at a standstill now. In July 2005, Britain, backed by the United States and seven other countries, led a Security Council briefing on Zimbabwe's slum demolition campaign in an effort to generate a punitive Security Council resolution. However, because of

Beijing's strong support for Mugabe, the U.N. was unable to reach a consensus on further formal discussions of the issue. If discussion is taboo, there's not even hope of any action being taken to counter the forced displacement of 700,000 people from their homes: people who at least had the courage to stand up to Mugabe. Can the U.N. say as much?

As China's power and influence grows, its factories continue to churn out more and more smoke, asphyxiating its inhabitants and bleeding Africa dry. Its growth has become too expensive and is driving African countries into unsustainable debt and irreversibly depleting the continent's resources. Worse still, China's prosperity is perversely bound up with the deaths of all those millions whom its money is helping to annihilate. This economic 'miracle' is veering drastically out of control and out of breath by the minute; for its sake and especially its neighbours', it would be time for it to hit the brakes and slow down.

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China's model of a one-party totalitarian state appears to have rubbed off on many African dictators



Leeds Student

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Don't be left alone at night

It is not yet clear if the two Leeds girls recently raped are in fact students, however, it is of great concern to the female student population, particularly as the women subjected to the attacks are 22 and 23 respectively.

The fact that these attacks happened on the outskirts of the city centre is also worrying given the mass amounts of students who frequent the centre of Leeds late at night.

Female students should use this horrifying news to ensure they looking after themselves late at night, and that are never left alone.

The man arrested is said to be in

his mid 20s.

It is only two months since the 'Suffolk Strangler' attacks which dominated the national news in the run-up to Christmas, where five prostitutes were raped and murdered.

All that can be said to our female readers is to remain vigilant when out in the city centre late at night.

The last thing we want is a repeat of these horrendous attacks.

These are pretty wild views, but for disagreeing with them I was routinely condemned as being a "loony left nutter". I guess as a Marxist I should be use to this label. I was actually in good company though as in another 'discussion' we had Hartley labelled Held and McGrew, globalisation theorists with social democratic politics, as "loony left nutters" too.

I didn't lodge a formal complaint but did see another lecturer in the politics department for help with my dissertation. All in all I found the experience pretty funny but still congratulate whoever lodged the complaint and Hugo Radice for taking it seriously.

I am pretty confident in my politics, so I wasn't too concerned about Hartley's denunciations, but you would have to worry about how less confident people would feel. It is totally inappropriate behaviour for a member of the University's academic staff.

Dr Hartley's teaching methods 'not for me'

Dear Editor,

I was surprised to see the series of letters and comment article defending the 'teaching methods' of Dr Hartley in last week's *Leeds Student*. I was in Dr Hartley's politics dissertation class last semester and can't say I find his methods particularly rewarding.

His classes were marked by long and arrogant rants at student's chosen dissertation titles. I think me and Dr Hartley have certain political differences that meant I was lucky enough to get a particularly long and arrogant interrogation of my chosen title in each class.

I am doing my dissertation on French postmodernism, but somehow our arguments touched on issues such as privatisation, South African apartheid and neoliberalism. Dr Hartley was particularly convinced that Nelson Mandela was a "self-interested communist agitator" and there was no difference between the public and private sector.

These are pretty wild views, but for disagreeing with them I was routinely condemned as being a "loony left nutter". I guess as a Marxist I should be use to this label. I was actually in good company though as in another 'discussion' we had Hartley labelled Held and McGrew, globalisation theorists with social democratic politics, as "loony left nutters" too.

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Cheers,

Luke Cooper

Wooldridge offends on religion

Dear Editor,

As a Christian, I feel that I must respond to the article by Mr. Wooldridge, where he argues that Christians should not tell non-believers about what they believe, with the hope that they might come to know God. Mr. Wooldridge judges that doing so is not inclusive to all people's views.

Since coming to know God through Jesus, my faith, by His grace, stands firm. It is therefore the case that I will not compromise on any point in the Bible, which is perhaps why Mr. Wooldridge believes that Christians trying to win non-Christians to the Lord is not advisable, due to the fact that Christians will not negotiate.

However, God teaches us to love others as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31) and it is because of this love that Christians want to share the joy of their salvation. This is something that Jesus commanded Christians to do (Mark 16:15), and far from being excluding, Christians hope that more people will be included in knowing the salvation of Jesus.

Christians mean well by trying to bring people to God; it would be a shame if it were to be concluded that Christians should not preach the gospel.

Yours,

Rachel Tomniak

Disco not so dirty

Dear Editor

I am writing with regards to the drugs raid article published on the front page of last week's *Leeds Student*. The YouTube video referred to in the article actually captured Dirty Disco's ice canon, a feature of the night, being let off, and not sprayed CO2 gas as was written.

I can appreciate how disappointing it is when a night out is ruined, particularly when money is lost as a result. The temporary closure of Northern Light due to ongoing licensing issues seems to have drawn more attention to The Dirty Disco

This week's election campaigning was not only visible on campus, it was extremely noticeable on the phenomenon that is Facebook.

Is this a kick in the teeth for Union democracy or a clever way of informing people about the elections?

Friends will vote for friends regardless of their abilities. This is extremely unfortunate as the best candidate will be losing out on precious votes.

The campaign is ultimately a job interview, as those vying for the lucrative Exec roles will be employed full-time from July this year. Should someone be employed on the basis that they have a better poster or gimmick than their opponent? No.

Everyone who has voted should have checked out the manifestoes of all candidates standing, whether in last week's *Leeds Student* or through the handy handbook on show at the polling stations.

Most candidates who promoted

Pool plans could take a dive

It seems that our planned swimming pool may not be delivered to us in the way we expected. The news that council bosses may be forced to share facilities between the public and the University could help build the relationship between students and the community.

The International pool, sitting in the city centre near the dual carriage-way and the *Yorkshire Post*, is set to be knocked down, resulting in a woeful lack of swimming facilities.

The Leeds International Pool Action Group - lobbyists who want easy access to a pool in the city - have

said that the University's proposed site is not ideal for non-university users, which could mean that students will suffer as they would be the ones to make the trek if they fancy a dip.

The original plans for our own pool, which will also include a 200 station fitness suite, will have serious benefits for some of our sports teams, most notably, and obviously, the swimming team and water polo club.

We won't be requiring the use of a swimming pool 24/7 so it makes sense to let others make use of the facility, particularly as it will be the only one available around the city centre.

raid than others in our area. Speculation about the raid occurring was to be expected considering the similar occurrences at other venues across the city in previous weeks. However, to suggest that anybody associated with The Dirty Disco or Northern Light may have had any prior knowledge of the police raid undermines the months of hard work, commitment and enthusiasm which go into each party.

Long queues aren't uncommon at such a popular event; Dirty Disco is not some sort of super-club designed to maximise profits at the expense of its clubbers. Instead it is a monthly party hosted by two local guys who are passionate about music and the Leeds clubbing scene; the huge effort by everybody involved to get the party restarted and reach as many disappointed clubbers by text as possible as well as the apologies posted on the club's myspace page for the disruption is testament to this.

Any suggestions or criticisms voiced on the club's forum are always addressed publicly by the organisers. Anybody still in possession of a full unused ticket for the night can use it to gain free entry to next month's party at Stylus, Leeds University. It is understandable that after a sufficient amount of time the night could not remain free. Dirty Disco boasts six high profile international Dj's each month as well as showcasing local upcoming talent; an expensive feature, but one which enables it to far outshine many of its local competitors. It would have been unfair on those who had already paid to get in.

Police raids such as this one occur in numerous clubs throughout the country all the time. The raid clearly inconvenienced everybody's night but it seems unfair to question the quality or integrity of The Dirty Disco as a result.

Yours,
Hannah Verghes

Corrections and clarifications

It is the policy of the Leeds Student to correct significant errors as soon as possible. If you see an error in our pages, email the editor on editor@lsweb.org.uk. Please quote the date and page number.

** Improve your text life - text LS **

Im a boy and my straighteners broke, is it too soon to go to lectures yet? my friends laugh at me.

Hey there little sexy pig u made it with a man. And now uve got a kid with hooves instead of hands...legend

Lydia you can sod that james worboys and come see me. I'll give you a right seeing too. You'll be twitching for a week afterwards.

Vote Lee Randle No.1 for activities officer 2008

Smile if you're gay

The sports office, what a useless, pathetic bunch of work shy losers. They're awful at absolutely everything, sack them all now.

Man I am sick of all this campaigning, can't wait for it to end.

Ronnie likes 2 feast upon man meat. Word to the bird. MH

James Worboys, i 'can't get no sleep' since you left me. Love Lydia x

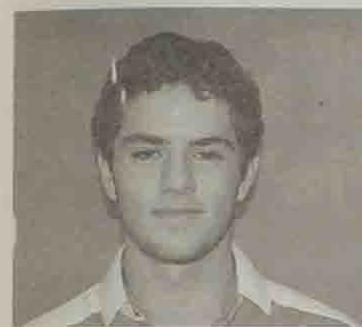
Sorry curly haired girl in the fav on weds, u were hot but i have gf. Lots of love, howies man. Xx



txt 07794

125795

2 get ur msg in



Akram Salhab

Is trident justified?

Akram Salhab gives his opinion on the government's decision to renew the UK's nuclear capabilities.

I Life as a first year undergraduate is great. With new found freedoms, long lie-ins and little to worry about apart from the measly 40% required to pass the year, life is just one big party. Sure there are student fees but you have years before you will have to deal with them, and after all, it is only right that you contribute to your education because as government Higher education secretary Bill Rammell so kindly explained in the recent Big Fees Debate which took place in the union, the government has other 'priorities' on which to focus their spending.

A most interesting conjecture for a member of a party that was so famously elected on the explicit platform of "education, education, education" but this can be forgiven. For this affirmation of the importance of education was quite a while ago and perhaps there are now other priorities, of which education is no longer one. Under this rationale it makes perfect sense that if the government has more important demands on spending and is thus a bit strapped for cash, then the rectitude of attempting to squeeze a bit out of the now lowly esteemed education system makes perfect sense. Why

not have a whip round to see if some grubby students can lend a few quid?

It is not only in education that the government is being frugal. They also seem unable to conjure up the 0.7% of GDP for foreign aid as recommended by the Millennium Development Goals, and hospitals are going into debt to fund current spending due to insufficient funding from the government. Even our beloved Leeds infirmary is facing cuts! One must assume therefore that in these attempts to limit spending, the aforementioned 'priorities' must be of enormous importance.

Imagine my surprise then when I discover the government white paper on Britain's nuclear deterrent Trident in which it is recommended that £25 billion be spent on renewing our nuclear capabilities, a cost which is estimated to rise to a whopping £76 billion over the course of the deterrent's lifetime. If the question is how should the government best allocate resources to prevent attacks on Britain, then renewing Trident is certainly not the answer. For if Trident did provide effective security then one could be forgiven for thinking that Britain would be one of the safest countries in western Europe. Instead the opposite appears to

be true, because in the modern epoch nuclear weapons are very blunt instruments for attempting to ensure security where much more subtle mechanisms are needed.

The absurdity of the case for Trident appears as early as the first page of the white paper where Tony Blair declares that "we need to factor in the requirement to deter countries which might in the future seek to sponsor nuclear terrorism from their soil". Brilliant. From this statement we should perhaps assume that the government's new anti-terror strategy somehow includes using nuclear bombs on the places from where terrorists operate. Under this logic Leeds is probably the prime target for annihilation for producing the 7/7 bombers.

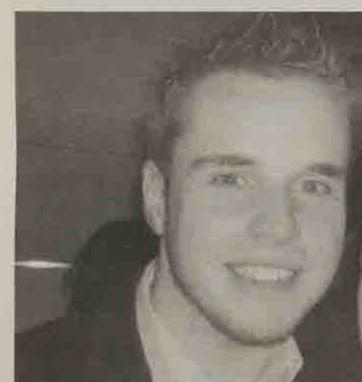
Obviously this argument is both nonsensical and extremely dangerous. A better strategy would be to assess why Britain appears to be at the forefront of the 'war on terror' and adopt a foreign policy which would attempt to limit the incentives for attacking. Non-renewal of Trident also has a part to play here, for one of the biggest criticisms of Britain is what is seen as hypocrisy by the 'do as I say not as I do' approach to foreign rela-

tions of which nuclear weapons is one of the prime examples. Not renewing Trident would not only be fulfilling our obligations under the non-proliferation treaty but would also give us moral authority to demand nuclear disarmaments without the current accusations of double standards being made.

Finally, you should ask yourself this simple question: is there, or would there ever be, a situation in which you would personally be willing to press the infamous 'red button' and release a warhead 8 times more powerful than that which was dropped onto Hiroshima and Nagasaki thereby costing thousands, if not millions, their lives? One must confront this question because this is ultimately the reality of nuclear weapons, a reality which no empty rhetoric about security, cost or non-proliferation can hide.

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Philip Donohue

Science trumps God

Philip Donohue argues that to embrace the creationist theories of how the planet was formed is a cop out and does the human race no favours

Last week, a report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that it is in fact human beings, and not the natural climatic processes of the planet, that are responsible for global warming and climate change. The levels of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by human activity have been increasingly rapidly since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the late eighteenth century. The powerhouses of human development in industry, from coal powered steam mills, through oil and gas fuelled electrical power generation, to petrochemical-hungry consumer goods and vehicles, have caused massive damage to the environment over the last 200 years.

It is a stark wake-up call to both the industrial elites and to the mass of the general public who have doubted what mainstream scientists and researchers have been saying for many years now: that human activity is having a profoundly negative effect on the on the acutely balanced natural processes that

exist on Earth. As such, we find ourselves at a turning point in the history of our planet, a point where it has perhaps never been more vital that the education and understanding of science and nature is properly informed. We owe it to our descendants not to repeat the selfish abuse of the privileged power over nature held by our ancestors, who saw themselves as living in a world designed for them, to do with as they wished.

In recent years, Richard Dawkins (Chair for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University) has received much publicity for his attacks on religious teachings such as 'intelligent design' and creationism in the science classroom, alongside (and sometimes instead of) the theory of Darwinian evolution. His style is one that some would describe as 'blunt', and many are turned off by his somewhat antagonistic approach. Indeed, at a recent conference discussing the relationship between science and religion, astrophysicist (and fellow atheist) Neil deGrasse Tyson rebuked Dawkins on

his "Here is the scientific evidence, if you don't accept it you're an idiot" attitude. Sensitivity to other people's beliefs is of course essential, but the reason many atheists are so frank with their attacks on religion is because we realise what is at stake if science loses its legitimate ground to faith.

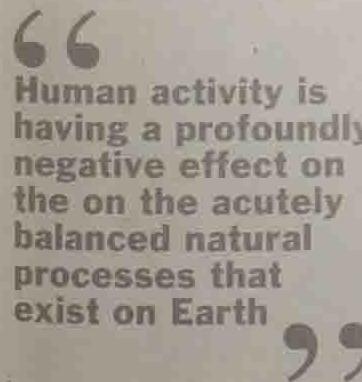
The next generation of scientists, those in primary and secondary schools today, will become the people who will be expected to deal with the problems caused by their parents, grandparents, and generations past. We owe it to them that we do not sully the facts and evidence they need to solve our problems. Facts such as the age of the universe (currently agreed to be nearly 14 billion years old), the age of the Earth (around 4.5 billion years), the origins of life, development of human society etc., the list goes on and on. Without a deeper understanding of the past, we lose sight of a better future. Those who cannot fully accept evidence of evolution, of the origins of the Earth and the universe etc. as fact are unwilling to accept the implications it has on our

understanding of our place in the universe. For believers in supernatural creation, the world was created for the utility of man. Science, through studies in evolution and other fields, puts us in our place as just another collection of cells and biochemical reactions that exists on Earth, a place that (as far as we are currently aware) is the only place in the cosmos that has any form of life at all.

The understanding required to fully grasp the complexities of these theories is doubtless incredibly detailed and intellectually demanding. But to cop-out and just say 'God did it' is to avoid the difficult questions, and in doing so distracts from the essential understanding and progress towards truth that humanity has at its core.

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Human activity is having a profoundly negative effect on the on the acutely balanced natural processes that exist on Earth



300 Seconds in sport

'Not in Corrie'

By Michael Niles

"Lucas is the worst tackler you're likely to see - head-height tackles and everything."

Andy Battersby
Men's Football Club Captain

LS - Hi Andy. We always start by asking how the uni team are getting on this season, so, how are you guys doing?

AB - Well the first team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Premiership. We were beaten 4-1 by Sheffield, but came second which is a great achievement. We've drawn Nottingham in the BUSA knockouts next Wednesday which we want to win. We're going steady in the National Uni League as well, and we're in the quarter-finals of that cup. The second team didn't win the league but there are about nine or ten freshers this year. They're all getting to know each other but there is some great talent in the first and second years. The thirds won the BUSA league and their striker Jimmy Warner has

scored over 30 goals this season. They've been drawn against York firsts in the knockouts, which is great for them to play a first team. And the fourths also did well. A lot of new lads have come into the club and manager Ben Hickes is nurturing them into the club.

LS - You play for England, is that correct?

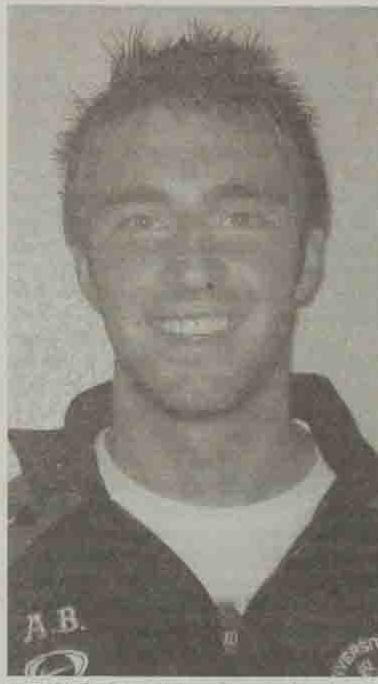
AB - Yeah I got in as a fresher and played in the British Uni Championships, which we won. It's probably the best level you could be playing at at uni. It's a great honour to play for your country. The standard is amazing, like there is a Cambridge City player and all the team comes from Bath and Loughborough mainly. There are not many players from up north so it's great, I love it.

LS - OK, teammates. Who is the quickest player?

AB - James Wood, we call him Rommedahl cos' he is rapid. The quickest player you'll see.

LS - Who is the best player in the squad?

AB - I'd say Roy Sandeman. He's a Scottish central-midfielder who plays for the firsts. He's had a great season, he eats the right stuff and always plays well.



BATTERED: Defender Andy leads his team from the back

There are a few players that have been at clubs. I was an apprentice at Wigan, there is Chris Nunn who had a YTS at Charlton. Richard Sexton has been at a top club and one guy, Michael Classen has played in Serie B in Italy.

LS - That is pretty impressive. So a-la Soccer-AM, who is the longest in the shower?

AB - Ben Lucas - aka Zitty - you've never seen anything like that before.

LS - Who's the laziest player?

AB - Nick O'Donaghue, he's the manager of the seconds and he smokes, he drinks. He's a slob and lazy.

LS - Who's the class clown?

AB - I'd say either Roy Sandeman or Chris Nunn, the 'Nunn-dog'. When we play away from home, they'll be the ones who cut your socks and Deep-Heat you when you're in your boxers.

LS - Who are the guys that always put in 100%?

AB - Erm, Matthew Sheppard, who's the third team manager, and probably Reiss Lea. In training, Reiss will go straight through you. He plays on a different level.

LS - Who is the hard man in the Leeds Uni footy squad?

AB - I'd say Ben Lucas and Luke Crowder. Crowder is a typical Scouser and Lucas is the worst tackler you are likely to see. Head height tackles, he'll kick anything, eat anything. Reiss Lea is also one for a tackle. He sometimes goes off on one and can get himself sent off.

LS - Who would you say is the ladies man?

AB - That would have to be Giuseppe D'Angelo. He's got a different girl every night - the "Italian Stallion".

LS - This may be a pretty daft question, but who would you say are your biggest rivals?

AB - Yeah, it's gotta be the Met. We're massive rivals and they beat us at Varsity so we'll be looking to get revenge the next time that we play them.

LS - If you were to try your hand at another sport in your Uni life, what would it be and why?

AB - Erm, I'm not sure. Definitely not hockey. I'd say basketball cos' I'm quite tall so I'd try that for my slam dunks.

LS - That's your 300-seconds over. Thanks for your time and good luck for the knockouts

AB - Thank you very much

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Return of the Champions

Sporting comment

With the Champions League restarting next Tuesday Ahran Symonds-Baig looks at the British teams' chances of progression in Europe's elite competition

The Champions League restarts on Tuesday, which means midweek football for five of Britain's top teams.

Celtic have one of the toughest fixtures possible, having been drawn with one of the perennial powerhouses of the European game, AC Milan. It's not all doom and gloom, however, their domestic form is imperious, having not lost for 25 games, and they have a few top-class, experienced players in their ranks, notably Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink, Shunsuke Nakamura and Thomas Gravesen.

What may let them down is the lack of a top-quality goalscorer in the Henrik Larsson mould to upset the solid but aging Milan defence, but their commitment and teamwork could unsettle their opposition, who are used to a slower tempo game with time and space on the ball.

Whether they progress, however, will depend largely on how they handle Milan's potential attacking threats, such as Kaka, Clarence Seedorf, and Alberto Gilardino.

Being drawn against a PSV side who finished second to Liverpool in one of the weaker groups looks like an easy draw for Arsenal, but the reigning Dutch champions, who are top of their domestic league, are a side with a good European pedigree.

Despite always seeming to lose their best players in the close season, a problem many of the Dutch teams seem to have, PSV have a habit of unearthing gems to replace them, and Arsenal would do well not to underestimate them.

However, Arsenal's cup form under Wenger has always been exceptional, so with their current run of good form, and PSV failing at this hurdle last season, losing 5-0 on aggregate to Lyon, the Gunners will fancy their chances of progressing to the quarter-finals.

Another seemingly easy draw for an English side, which on paper looks like a walkover-the seemingly unstoppable Premier League leaders, Manchester United, paired with Lille who are third in the French league, and a long, long way behind Lyon.

It is hard to predict anything but a comfortable win for United, but the last time the two sides met, Lille pipped the Red Devils to third place in the group stage, beating them 1-0 in the process. The French side are based on a solid defence, with only seven goals conceded at home in the league all season, but can

lack a cutting edge going forward. The midfield is marshalled by Jean Makoun, a Cameroonian who was once touted as a potential Roy Keane replacement.

Manchester United have been devastating this season, and with Rooney, Scholes and especially Ronaldo on peak form, shouldn't have a problem easing past Lille. Crucially, Ferguson has been able to use his squad to great effect this season, meaning his key players should be fresh for this clash.

Wednesday sees the worst possible draw for Liverpool as Rafa Benitez returns to his homeland in an attempt to beat the most feared side in Europe, if not the world, Barcelona. This is Liverpool's last realistic chance of silverware this season, so to be paired with last season's winners, who have added the talents of Lilian Thuram, Gianluca Zambrotta and Eidur Gudjohnsen to their already star-studded ranks, will have come as a big blow.

However, Liverpool are defensively very difficult to break down and their captain, Steven Gerrard, has gone on record saying that with their Spanish contingent and Benitez's knowledge of the Spanish game, they should have an edge.

The reality is that Barcelona have been banging in the goals, have extraordinary squad depth (Iniesta, the scorer against England, doesn't even start at club level), and are unbeaten at home in the league this season. Barcelona have match winners all over the park, and whilst they've been below par this season, they have the potential to destroy anyone.

This will be an incredibly difficult fixture for Liverpool, but one glimmer of hope is that recently there has been dressing room upheaval in the Catalan camp, with star striker Samuel Eto'o apparently refusing to play against Real Sociedad. Barcelona haven't been untouchable in the league either this season, and if Liverpool can nick an away goal and take an unlikely lead back to Anfield, then this fixture could be a classic.

Finally Jose Mourinho's return to Porto sees the reigning English champions Chelsea looking to justify their massive expenditure with a European trophy, but it will not be easy for the Blues. This season has exposed some major frailties in the squad, with a lack of depth and over-reliance on a few key players being the main reasons they

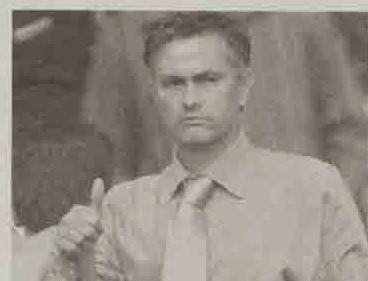
"Probably Chelsea, but I'm hoping Liverpool can do it again, despite the fact they aren't playing very well at the moment"
-Aaron, London

"Barcelona, they've still got the strongest squad"
-Lucy, Oxford

Your Shout: Who will win the Champions League?

"Man Utd. They're hitting form at the right time"
-Will, Kendal

"Barcelona. They are too strong"
-Mark, Liverpool



On familiar territory: Jose goes back to Porto

PHOTO: Google

trail Manchester United.

The inspirational John Terry should be back, but their two main goalscorers, Lampard and Drogba, will be very tired by this stage in the season. That is not to say their effectiveness will be limited-Drogba particularly has been exceptional so far. The strength of the squad as a whole is in question, as Mourinho seems to still be searching for the right balance in the starting XI, and the fringe players, such as Shaun Wright-Phillips lack match sharpness, limiting

their effectiveness.

As far as Porto are concerned, the main danger man is Ricardo Quaresma, who was linked with a move to Stamford Bridge in January to address Chelsea's lack of width and penetration. The 2003/4 winners have since fallen from those heights, but top their domestic league and qualified from a tricky group. Chelsea should be too strong for Porto, but if ever an upset seemed made for tabloid headlines, it is here.

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Good week



American Football
Another demolition job, this time a 64-0 thrashing of Sunderland Kings keeps the Celts marching on towards the play-offs as the highest scoring team in Britain.



Rugby Union
Not much BUSA this week. However the Rugby firsts got the job done, beating local rivals Sheffield Hallam 13-9.



Cycling
The Cyclists are on the back page again. This time they've picked up a team bronze medal in the BUSA Cyclocross championships. The guys on bikes just can't stop winning.



Men's Hockey
Not exactly a bad week, but an incredibly tough draw pits them against Birmingham in the BUSA knockouts. Captain Tom Ginty describes Birmingham as one of the best sides in the country.



BUSA Sport
This week they decide to have a week off! How dare they? Time off gives all the teams a week to prepare for the knockouts next week. Best of luck to the teams representing Leeds.

Women's Tennis
Drawn against Loughborough in the BUSA knockouts. Ouch.



Bad week

Unfriendly

Following the debacle that was the friendly with Spain, England have reduced the number of friendlies they will play in the four-year period beginning after Euro 2008, with head coach Steve McLaren clearly in favour of swapping uncompetitive matches for longer training camps.

"I want the flexibility to be able to control when we have friendlies," said McLaren. "The key thing for me is getting more time with the players. If more time means get-togethers with no end result and we achieve something, yes, I would like that."

Assistant coach Terry Venables agreed with McLaren's sentiments, echoing the fact that they feel four day training camps would foster greater team spirit and produce better



McLaren was heavily criticised after the Spain friendly Photo:BBC

results when it matters. He added: "We could have worked on what we need to do for the next competitive game."

It would seem that the decision, taken jointly by McLaren and The FA, is an admission that nothing has been learnt from the friendlies under recent administrations, whilst fears persist over top club's reluctance to release players for internation duty, especially for friendlies.

However, these matches present an opportunity to try new formations and players, and while obviously a balance has to be struck between success and blooding new players, England have managed neither in recent times. Using training camps rather than matches would seem to only reinforce the status quo within the squad, where the most 'influential' players are picked regardless of tactics and form.

While friendlies may be meaningless in the competitive sense, when handled correctly they allow fringe players to show that they have both the ability and the temperament to succeed on the international stage, which is very different to what they may have experienced domestically.

The worrying prospect is if England are awarded the 2018 World Cup, what would happen to the team if they have two years without a competitive match?



WEDNESDAY'S BUSA RESULTS

Men's Rugby Union I 13
v. Sheffield I 9

Men's Rugby Union II P
v. Durham III P

Men's Rugby Union III P
v. Sheffield Hallam III P

Women's Rugby Union P
v. Sheffield I P

WINS: 1

LOSSES: -

DRAWS: -

Leaks United

By Joseph Hibbert

The troubles at Leeds United seem to deepen every week, with the team fighting for their life at the bottom of The Championship, suffering plummeting attendances, and still a mountain of debt, it has now been revealed that the team was betrayed by a player who leaked the tactics and line-up to the Crystal Palace camp, ahead of their game at Elland Road.

Manager Dennis Wise bizarrely decided to air his side's dirty laundry in public by revealing, "I am very disappointed because one player from my club gave the opposition my team and that player will never play for this club again. It disappoints me, it hurts me a lot. I told the players about it before the game and they gave me a great response. We found out at lunchtime but I'm not going to talk about it any more and there will be no statement from the club."

It is believed that the mole was not in the squad for the game, although it was at first alleged that former Palace player Shaun Derry was the culprit. Derry has since come out and publicly denied the allegations. Goalkeeper Graham Stack has joined Derry in denying the claims.

Despite this, Leeds still managed

to seal the victory, clinching a vital three points in their battle against relegation. But Wise's comments have made public the fact that, as outspoken Palace Chairman Simon Jordan stated, "Wise doesn't have control of his dressing room."

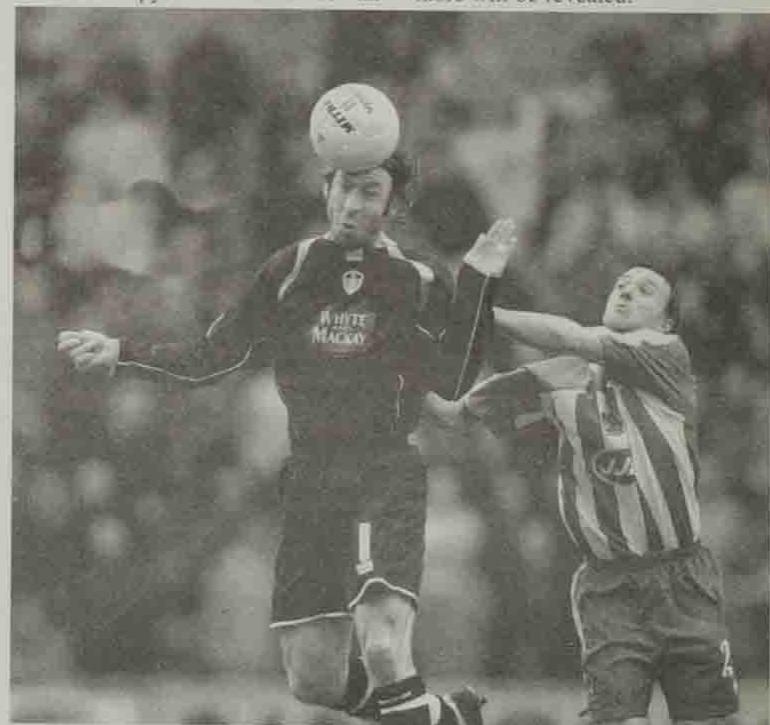
Since Wise's outburst the club have only made one statement, coming from Chief Executive Shaun Harvey, eager to play down the situation, "While we know it happened, we do not know which Leeds United player it was. There are people at the club who know but they have not told us as yet. In the cold light of day we have to take into account a number of things. Was the leak of the team malicious or naive, was the information given to Crystal Palace directly or indirectly?"

Eagles Manager Peter Taylor hinted that it is perhaps the leak was "naive". "Players talk to each other all the time because they are friends and say things like 'I am not playing, he is playing in my place instead'. There is no malice involved. It was not said against Dennis or anyone at Leeds. It was just two players talking." These comments therefore render the Leeds Manager's outburst that the player will never wear a Leeds shirt again a little extreme.

The whites have enough to worry about as they teeter on the verge of dropping into the third tier of English

football for the first time in their long and proud history, without a mole in the camp. However, as Peter Taylor revealed the player is less of a malicious spy, and more of an

ignorant footballer accidentally revealing the team. No doubt the PR men at Elland Road will sweep this drama under the carpet and little more will be revealed.



Former Crystal Palace player Derry has denied the allegations

PHOTO: Google

BUSA Knockout Draw

Men's Badminton I
v University of Glasgow I

Men's Badminton II
v University of Teeside I

Women's Badminton I
v Imperial College London I

Men's Basketball I
v Aberdeen University I

Women's Basketball I
v University of St Andrews I

Men's Football I
v University of Nottingham I

Men's Football III
v University of York I

Women's Football I
v University of East Anglia I

Men's Hockey I
v University of Birmingham I

Men's Hockey IV
v University of Worcester I

Women's Hockey I
v University of Bristol I

Men's Squash I
v University of Glasgow I

Women's Squash I
v Aberdeen University I

Men's Table Tennis
v University of Warwick I

Men's Tennis I
v Aberdeen University I

Women's Tennis I
v Loughborough University I

All ties to be played 21st February

Celtic warriors dethrone Kings

American Football
Leeds Celts 54 - 0 Sunderland Kings

By Adam Keath

The Leeds Celts continued their strong form by putting up over 40 points on their opposition for the fourth game in a row, and once again keeping a clean sheet. In their last home game of the regular season, and with the play-offs now a certainty, it was a shame that the Celts did not get to play on their own Graveyard pitch due to it allegedly being unplayable. Nevertheless, Leeds began the game strongly and continued to dominate, despite admirably determined resistance from Sunderland.

Led by their quarterback James Pinney, who is having a great season, the Celts' high-powered offense kept



In the thick of it

PHOTO: Stacey Galloway

the ball on the ground early on against the Kings due to terrible weather conditions. This allowed rampaging running back Adam Irozuru to have yet another superb game. By the time the final whistle was blown he had racked up four more touchdowns.

Pinney meanwhile was also able to

scramble for a career-high three rushing scores. This included one long run from near the half-way line following a fake hand-off to Irozuru, which distracted the defence for long enough for Pinney to outrun everyone to the endzone.

In the second half back-up Alessandro Persano came in at quarterback and scored a touchdown of his own to make up for three that he missed out on last week due to penalties.

The day really belonged to the defence though. Luke Brafield was once again a colossus in the centre of the defensive line and notched up two and a half more sacks and seven tackles for loss. The Celts' complex and hard hitting defence was all over the Kings all day long and even defensive tackle Jake Anthony got an interception.

Rookie Ian Rounce, playing in his new hybrid position, somewhere between defensive end and outside linebacker, was another Celtic to have a career day. He was everywhere and his performance was highlighted with one massive hit which brought about sharp intakes of breath, and no small amount of sympathy from both sidelines for the Sunderland player on the receiving end.

With tough-tackling safety Ed Payne and ball-hawking cornerback Matt Parrish also getting interceptions, the Celts offence was given good field position which they took advantage of. Rob Patchett and veteran Danny Thompson also made some awe-inspiring hits to end off another satisfying day for the hard-hitting Celts.

Leeds now boast the best scoring offence in the league and with a win in their next match against Newcastle they can secure home-field advantage for the play-offs, despite playing in the toughest division in Britain.

Reaction to the draw

The draw for the knockout rounds of the BUSA sports competitions was made this last Wednesday. All the Leeds University teams who had qualified for the next stage found who they would have to face on their road to a prospective BUSA championship.

Following Wednesday's draw *Leeds Student Sport* caught up with a few of the people who would be involved to see what they thought



Men's Basketball go up against Aberdeen

their chances were.

The Men's Basketball team find themselves with a home tie against Aberdeen University and we spoke to Captain Neil Smith about the team's chances. "We've never

played Aberdeen before, so we are uncertain of what standard they are but we're confident after a good season. We're at home, which is always good, so we fancy our chances. It's good to have a change as normally we only play similar teams like Manchester."

Upon hearing of the draw against the University of East Anglia, Women's Football club captain Jane Burgess said they are "really really looking forward to it. We've never played the University of East Anglia before so it will be a good challenge for us. On a personal note, I live close to the campus, so that will be cool as well."

Tom Ginty, the Men's Hockey captain, also gave us his views on their draw with the University of Birmingham, saying "Birmingham are very strong, probably the second best team in the country and up there with Loughborough. It doesn't help that it's away, there is a lot against us but we have nothing to lose. We're going to go there, hopefully take lots of supporters and enjoy the game".

Good luck to all the teams in the next round. News on how they got on in next week's edition.

Good week

England Cricket

England complete their astonishing revival by winning the first two games of the best of three final against the old enemy Australia. Paul Collingwood stars, scoring 100 in the first game and 70 in the second.

Darren Anderton

"Sicknote" scored the first hat-trick of his 18 year career for Bournemouth against Leyton Orient last Saturday. It took 542 games for the former Tottenham star to hit the net three times in one game. It lifted the Cherries above fellow League One strugglers Orient.



The French

Vincent Clerc's last gasp try gave France a 20-17 victory over the Irish. The try spoiled what would have been an emotional victory at Croke Park. The victory also puts them top of the Six Nations table.

English Rugby

England's scrappy victory over a very competitive Italy side bought fans back down to earth with a bump last Saturday. They did still win and Johnny didn't stop kicking the points. Not all bad then.



Leeds United

Despite beating Crystal Palace 2-1 at the weekend United stay rooted to the bottom of the Championship. Also, Dennis Wise sensationally revealed after the match that one of his own players had handed team information to Crystal Palace. A club in crisis?

Pedro Mendes

The Pompey player is in the wars against Manchester City once again. Despite them selling Ben Thatcher to Charlton, Joey Barton raked his studs down Mendes' ankle, sending the Portuguese midfielder off on a stretcher and leaving Harry Redknapp fuming.



Bad week



- * **BUSA Round-up**
- * **300 Seconds**
- * **Champions League preview**

Student Sport

Friday, February 16, 2007

sport@lsweb.org.uk

Wheels of steel

* **Cycling team grab bronze at Cyclo championships**

By David Wright

The Cycling Club picked up the team bronze medal at the BUSA Cyclocross Championship this week, adding more silverware to an already impressive trophy cabinet.

The team entered this year's BUSA Cyclocross event with a lot to live up to, having won team the gold medal for the last two years as well as individual medals in this event. Cyclocross is the second event in the BUSA cycling calendar and after a strong performance at the BUSA hill climb in October, where they came away with third place, hopes of keeping Leeds on the podium were high.

Cyclocross is a relatively unknown discipline which can be best described as fast, furious and filthy. It consists of riding what are little more than road bikes with knobbly

tires around a short, muddy course to complete as many laps as possible within an hour.

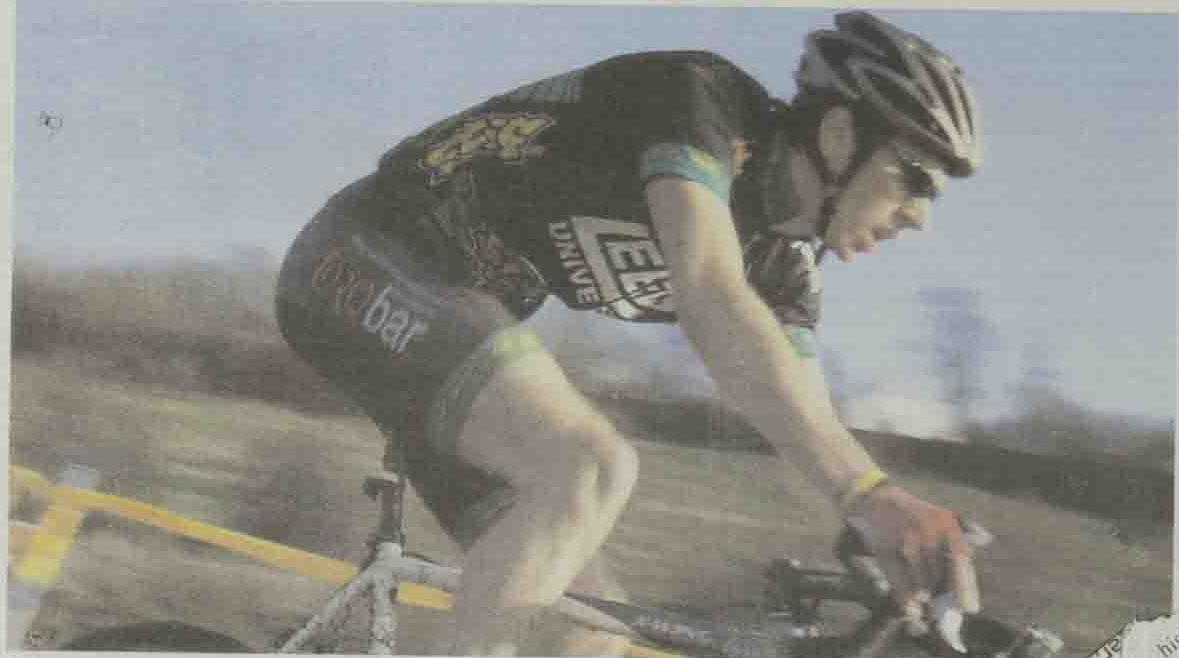
This year's event took place near Lincoln and attracted some very talented cyclists, some of whom are surely professionals of the future. Leeds University Masters student and cyclocross expert Tony Salmon was among the race leaders from the start. He finished ninth behind some of the best young cyclists in the UK, including World Student Games competitor and winner of last year's BUSA event Mark Thwaites of Leeds Metropolitan University. Thwaites was beaten to the gold medal by Southampton's Ross Adams this time around.

The start of the race was chaotic with a pack of 50 riders racing to the first corner. When a rider in the middle of the pack decided to go over his handle bars, it caused confrontation, with elbows flying and

chains coming off. Richardson and Burnett were at the centre of a frenzied crash, with Richardson blowing a tyre while Burnett was left on the line frantically fixing his bike watching the leader cycle into the distance. All other Leeds riders began relatively well, leaving Richardson to run 100 metres for his spare bike and Burnett still to start the race.

The long, muddy climb linked with the technical sections made this one of the most challenging courses. Leon Foks and John Shubert's bikes were victims of the muddy conditions, whilst Steve Adeshead battled on to the finish, despite an illness. Rowan Leary competed in his first race and after a gruelling hour of racing, Leeds scooped the team bronze medal with Swansea taking the gold. Leeds team was Tony Salmon, Captain John Richardson and Tim Burnett.

The next challenge is the BUSA mountain bike championships taking place in March.



MEDAL PEDAL: Richardson on course to help Leeds Uni grab team bronze

PHOTO: Eric Pettet



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